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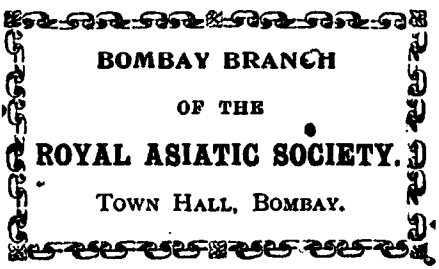
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MEMOIRS

OF

ADMIRAL SIR SIDNEY SMITH,

K. C. B., &c.

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "RATTLIN THE REEFER," &c.

14971. W.W.a.b3

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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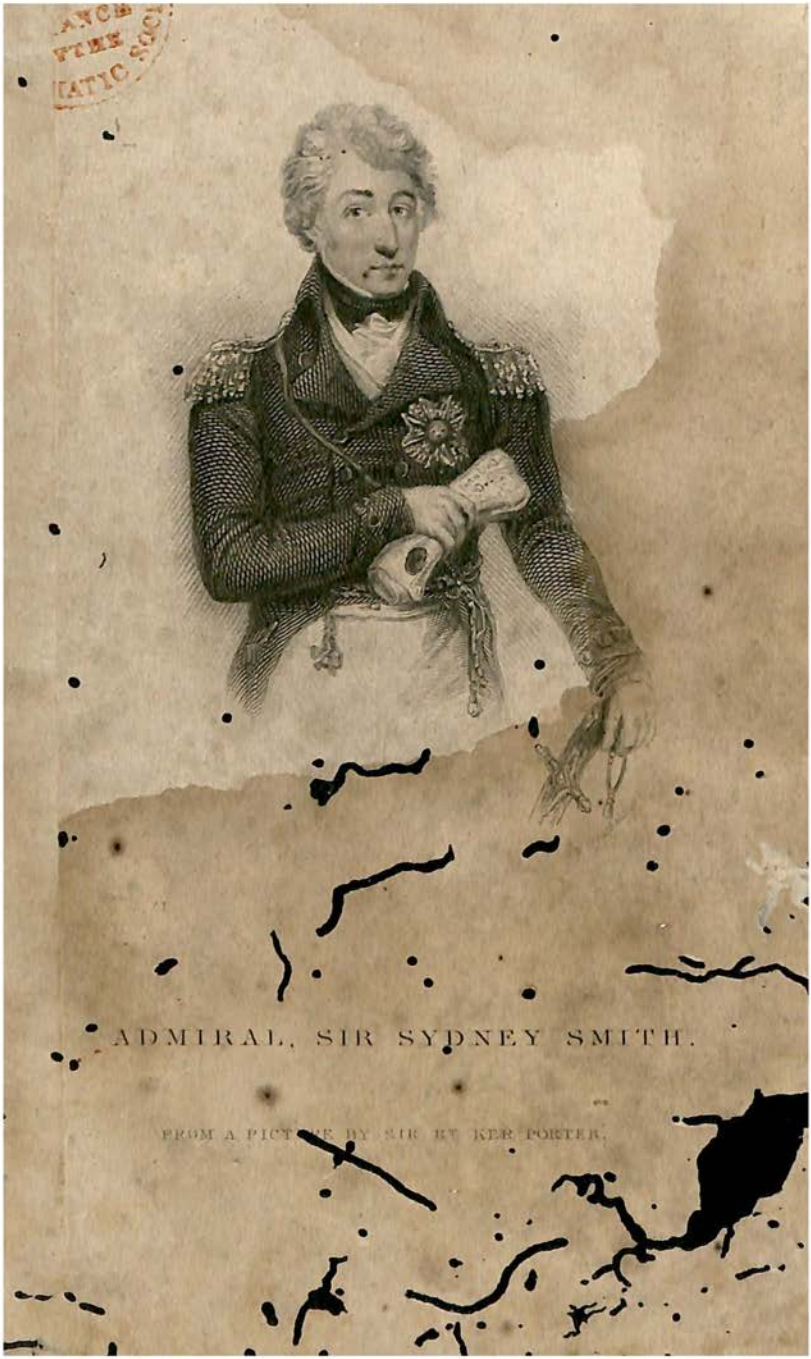

ADMIRAL, SIR SYDNEY SMITH.

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CONTENTS

OF

THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

Sir Sidney appointed to accompany Sir John Duckworth—Instructions to Sir John—Sir Sidney Smith's Letter to the Sublime Porte . . . . *Page* 1

CHAPTER II.

The Dardanelles forced—A division of the Turkish fleet destroyed by Sir Sidney Smith—His despatch—Other official documents—His letter to Captain Dacre . 14

CHAPTER III.

The commencement of the negociations with the Turks—Sir Sidney's advice asked by the Commander-in-Chief—The Turks procrastinate and arm—The English resolve to return 28

CHAPTER IV.

Sir John Duckworth leaves the Dardanelles—His official accounts of his proceedings 46

CHAPTER V.

Sir John Duckworth thanks the officers and seamen under his command, and particularises Sir Sidney Smith—Sir Sidney's opinion of the attempt—His poem on the occasion—The opinion of the Admiralty of his merits—He returns to England 62

CHAPTER VI.

The situation of Portugal as regarded England and France—The Portuguese court throw themselves under the protection of the British fleet—The Portuguese fleet join Sir Sidney Smith's squadron in the first instance, and finally sail for the Brazils with the Prince Regent—The official despatches 81

CHAPTER VII.

Sir Sidney Smith superseded by Sir Charles Cotton—Much misunderstanding as to what ships should be placed under Sir Sidney's command—Official correspondence 113

CHAPTER VIII.

Sir Sidney Smith arrives at Rio Janeiro—Gives a grand entertainment to the royal family of Portugal—The speeches and proclamation 127

CHAPTER IX.

Sir Sidney's interference with politics—Espouses the interests of the Spanish Princess—The memorial of the Princess of Portugal and Brazil, and of Don Carlos, the Infante of Spain—Marks of favour shown to Sir Sidney Smith. 142

CHAPTER X.

Sir Sidney Smith's strong advocacy of the Infanta's interests —It displeases at home—Honours conferred upon him— Is recalled and superseded—Conjectures upon this step of the British government—Sir Sidney receives the address of the British merchants—His reply . . 153

CHAPTER XI.

Sir Sidney's popularity—He visits Liverpool—His reception—His eulogists—An account of his nautical inventions 166

CHAPTER XII.

Sir Sidney Smith made a vice-admiral—Proceeds to the Mediterranean—The nature of the service described—The amusements of the fleet—The reading-room on board the Hibernia 182

CHAPTER XIII.

At the close of the war Sir Sidney visits Cagliari—Entertains the King of Sardinia—Returns to England, and strikes his flag—Receives the freedom of Plymouth—Projects an union of all orders of knighthood for the abolition of white slavery 190

CHAPTER XIV.

Particulars concerning Captain Wright—That officer taken by gunboats—Is well treated in the first instance—The subsequent persecutions to which he was subjected 204

CHAPTER XV.

A Narrative by the late Captain Wright; containing a Justification of his Conduct in the Vincejo against certain Calumnies in the "Moniteur," &c., and an Account of his Treatment by the French Government, subsequent to his capture, found among his papers, in his own handwriting, recently claimed by Sir Sidney Smith, and given up by the present Government of France 225

CHAPTER XVI.

Sir Sidney made a Knight Commander of the Bath—The Duke of Wellington invests him—Sir Sidney's speech on the occasion—Sir Sidney's remonstrance to Bonaparte. 304

CHAPTER XVII.

Sir Sidney's exertions in favour of the white slaves—Letters from the various ministers of the European powers on the subject—Also from the consuls at Tripoli—Sir Sidney made admiral—A brief sketch of his character 313

APPENDIX 345

MEMOIRS,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Sir Sidney appointed to accompany Sir John Duckworth—Instructions to Sir John—Sir Sidney Smith's Letter to the Sublime Porte.

We must now convey the reader again to the Mediterranean, and view Sir Sidney Smith as about to be transferred from his command in chief on the Neapolitan coasts, to the third only in authority, in the expedition against Constantinople.

We have, in a former part of this narrative, seen him the active and energetic friend of the Mahometans, assisting them in building their ships, teaching them navigation and maritime warfare, strengtheing them with his advice, and successfully fighting their battles; but now, such is the instability of human policy, we are to contemplate his employing all his talents, and

calling forth all his energies, to harass and destroy his ancient friends—and to know that this duty devolved upon him, because the friendship of other days had afforded him the best opportunities to injure a people who had learned to esteem and honour him.

A revolution which was in accordance with the rule, and not the exception of the order of things in Turkey, deposed Sultan Selim, and placed his nephew Mustapha at the head of the faithful. This catastrophe was altogether unconnected with politics, and totally antichristian, both in the religious and political sense. It, however, brought in its train very serious political consequences. Both Russia and France solicited the friendship and co-operation of the new Sublime Porte against their respective enemies, denouncing hostilities if this should be withheld.

The Russians said that they wished to save the Ottoman empire from the grasp of the French; the French conjured the Ottomans to beware of the treacherous friendship of the Russians. Both parties were in the right; so the Porte sent troops into Moldavia and Wallachia to watch them. The French envoy, Sebastiani, tried many fruitless efforts to make the Turks break off all peaceable intercourse with Russia and her ally Great Britain. He then assumed a more lofty tone;

and threatened hostilities. Mr. Arbuthnot, the English minister at the Porte, did not fail to make the English government acquainted with these proceedings.

Similar intelligence was communicated to the British government by the Russian ministry, accompanied with a recommendation to send a British fleet to Turkey, with a large military force, which might defeat the ascendency of the French counsels at the Porte, and cause a powerful diversion of the force of France in favour of Russia.

A negotiation for a state of stricter amity with the Porte was commenced by the Russian, in conjunction with the British, government. To give weight to this, a fleet, under the command of Sir John Duckworth, was sent to force the passage of the Dardanelles, and, if certain terms should not be acceded to by the Ottomans, to bombard Constantinople.

It appears by the secret instructions given to Sir John Duckworth, that he was directed to proceed, without loss of time, to the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and there to take such a position as would enable him to effect the object of the expedition. Immediately on his arrival, he was to communicate with the British ambassador, to send him certain despatches, and consult with

him on the measures that might then be necessary to be taken.

Should he find that the subject of difference had been amicably settled between the Sublime Porte and the English legation, he was to preserve the relations of amity; if not, he was to commence offensive operations; having previously demanded, in the case of their detention, the ambassador and his suite, together with all the persons connected with the British factory; and, in the event of the demand not being complied with, he was to proceed to measures of hostility against the city.

Should the result of his communications with Mr. Arbuthnot be such as to render the commencement of hostilities necessary, he was to demand the surrender of the Turkish fleet, with a supply of stores sufficient for its equipment. This demand was to be accompanied with a menace of the immediate destruction of the city; and, should any negotiation be proposed by the Turks, as it would probably be only with a view of preparing means of resistance, and of securing their ships, this negotiation was not to be continued more than half an hour."

In the event of an absolute refusal on the part of the Turks, Sir John Duckworth was to can-

nonade the town, and to attack the fleet wherever it might be; holding it in his mind, that the getting the possession of, and next to that, the destruction of the ships, was the first object of consideration.

Such, and so delicate, was the import of the admiral's secret instructions; and the vastness of the objects that they embraced was to be equalled only by the delicacy necessary to effect them, so that some diplomatist not inferior to a Metternich was required for the one, and one of England's largest fleets, with a corresponding army, demanded for the other.

However, so differently thought the directors of England's resources, that the armament which they despatched to carry out so momentous an object, consisted only of seven ships of the line, besides a few frigates and bomb-vessels, and the diplomatic proceedings were conferred upon its admiral, Sir John Duckworth, assisted by our ambassador, Mr. Arbuthnot. Means so feeble, both morally and physically, were scarcely ever employed to effect ends so great and so complicated. Consequently the expedition failed.

Even the arrangements that were made, which were as judicious as the force employed to make them effective was insignificant, were much disturbed by the fears and the precipitancy of the

ambassador. At his request, a naval force had been previously despatched for his protection, and in aid of his negotiations; in conformity to which, Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Louis had anchored with a small squadron between the outer and inner castles of the Dardanelles, and sent the Endymion frigate up to Constantinople.

She had not been long there, before the ambassador, under the impression of alarm for his personal safety, (produced by secret information, which was doubtlessly false, and thus treacherously furnished by the French party,) that the Turkish government meant to confine him to the castle of the Seven Towers, went on board, and prevailed upon the commander to send a sudden invitation to the whole of the British factory to meet Mr. Arbuthnot at dinner. They were no sooner arrived, than the Endymion's cable was cut, her anchor left behind, and the company carried off *en masse* to the Dardanelles: a conciliatory preliminary this, to negotiations for a renewed and stricter amity, and a high compliment to the civilisation and honour of the Sublime Porte.

After Mr. Arbuthnot had thus ostensibly abdicated his functions by deserting his post, he sent a letter to the Reis Effendi, committing the pro-

tection of the British property to the Turkish government. From the Endymion he removed to the Canopus, and from the Canopus into the Royal George, the flag-ship of Sir John Duckworth, where he remained during the whole of the progress of the negotiations.

Having received his final orders, the vice-admiral proceeded off Tenedos, where he found Sir Thomas Louis's division at anchor off the Hellespont.

That Sir Sidney Smith had the honour of his country and the success of this expedition at heart, will be readily perceived by the following remonstrance which he drew up a few days before the passage was attempted, and which he wished immediately to be forwarded to the Sultan.

On board of His Majesty's Ship Pompée, off the Dardanelles, 12th February, 1807.

" May it please your Imperial Majesty,

" SIRE,

" In approaching your imperial seat of government, I feel the same respect for your Imperial Majesty personally, the same desire to promote your happiness, and to preserve your tranquillity, that I did eight years ago, when I was sent to cement the ancient friendship which, I trust, still

subsists between your Imperial Majesty and my august sovereign, George the Third, by signing a treaty of alliance, on which basis the combined forces afterwards acted against the common enemy, and secured the integrity of your imperial Majesty's dominions.

"It was hoped that the peace of Paris, which was the result of these labours, would have been permanent for the advantage of all parties; but the immeasurable ambition of Bonaparte continued to oppress and absorb the surrounding states for his own and his family's aggrandisement; and by the mission of M. Sebastiani (as it is avowed in that embassy's report) he sought to effect in Syria and Egypt, by intrigue and influence, that which the French arms had failed to accomplish.

"The British government, true to the principles on which the triple alliance was established, and trusting that, as the interests of the Sublime Porte were the same, its conduct would be so likewise, resisted these encroachments, and this fresh aggression, by all the means in its power; and although the principal ground of the war was that very proof of the continued intention of Bonaparte to pursue the original plan, subversive of the integrity of the Ottoman empire, Great Britain, feeling herself strong enough to

resist France single-handed, purposely declined committing the neutrality of the Sublime Porte by an act which might justify a new French invasion, and deprive it of the tranquillity necessary for the restoration of its resources.

"Little could it be thought that such delicate conduct would be repaid by allowing the French agent, who had failed in his attempt to regain a footing in distant provinces by intrigue, to acquire an ascendency in the councils of the government in the capital, equal to the direction of the whole empire, and the consequent annihilation of the power of the august sovereign whom I have now the honour of addressing. Surely his *will* never could have assented to such a degradation! Shall the magnificent Ottoman Sultan, who (from respect to his great ancestors and his own high situation) so long cautiously avoided the humiliation of corresponding with an Asiatic usurper, or an African rebel, allow himself to be dictated to on his throne, to his utter ruin, by a man he resisted successfully in the campaigns; who, whatever he may denominate himself, or be denominated by servile flatterers, is, in fact, no more than a successful rebel, who has usurped, by violence and bloodshed, the throne of his master, the ancient ally of the Sublime Porte, and the palace of his benefactors,

whose bounty taught him the art of war, by which he in vain attempted to prevail against the Ottoman arms? Shall it be said that Bonaparte, who could not succeed by force in the provinces, has succeeded to obtain the dominion of the entire Ottoman territory by arts of another kind—by fallacious reasoning, and by bribing your imperial Majesty's servants to desert and betray their master as he did his?—No! Let it rather be recorded, that Sultan Selim the Third proved himself worthy of his ancestors, his throne, and his people, by nobly stepping forward to assert, establish, and secure their honour, splendour, and prosperity; joining hands with those who have the power, as well as the will, to protect and to punish.

"The door is still open for your imperial Majesty to pursue this dignified line of conduct, by causing the French ambassador to withdraw from your imperial residence, recalling those of the two sovereigns whose friendship you have found advantageous to your security, and employing the resources of your great empire to the preservation of its integrity and independence. The time is come for your imperial Majesty to decide, for the interval of negociation will soon, very soon, be at an end; and if you decide that the resources shall be at the disposal, or within

the reach of the French, our common enemy, your imperial Majesty cannot doubt but that we shall deprive that enemy of their all. Should I ever see that fleet which your Majesty was graciously pleased, at one time, to confide to my fostering care, destroyed by the unavoidable events of war, I shall feel the same pain a man must feel, who sees the house he built, and the trees his hands planted and watered, in ruins and in ashes; yet that pain he must submit to, rather than see them in the hands of his declared enemy; for he must consider that as the least of the two evils, and bow to dire necessity.

"Think, most gracious sovereign, whilst it is yet time, and place your fleet, your capital, your palace, and your person, out of the reach of such events as must follow the continuance of the line of conduct that your present counsellors are pursuing, by a prompt acquiescence to the reasonable propositions of his Britannic Majesty's ambassador, for your imperial Majesty's and the general good, and by placing your interests in the keeping, and your fleet under the protection, of an ally whom your imperial Majesty well knows to be just and merciful even to his enemies, and to be most faithfully attached to your imperial Majesty.

"In these sentiments, I have the honour to

subscribe myself, with the most profound respect,

"Your imperial Majesty's most sincere friend,

"&c. &c. &c.

"WILLIAM SIDNEY SMITH."

We think this document, though a little too oratorical and egotistical, well calculated to have made some favourable impression in the quarter to which it was directed. We think its efficacy should have been tried; yet, although it was sent to the commander-in-chief, and an Italian translation of it forwarded to the British ambassador, Mr. Arbuthnot, it never reached the Sultan. As it partook more of the nature of a private and friendly remonstrance than of an official despatch, it could have compromised no one, and the probabilities of benefit were all in its favour.

We cannot account for this omission, as Sir John Duckworth always expressed the highest opinion of Sir Sidney's talents in affairs of this nature, which will be at once evident by an extract of a letter sent to him, dated Royal George, off the Dardanelles, February 10th, 1807. It is to this effect—

"Should a gauntlet with the minister be necessary for me to run, I shall have two powerful motives to call for your assistance; first, as I

know no man more equal to the undertaking, and, when there, *your knowledge of diplomacy must be highly beneficial.*"

We will add another letter on the same subject after Sir Sidney's document had been received.

"In the name of Mr. Arbuthnot, who is just going into the boat, and myself, we thank you for the attention that you have shown in thus addressing the Sultan; and we shall judge from events, whether it will be right to put the Sultan in possession of it, which you will, in course, be acquainted with.

"I am, with esteem, &c.

'J. T. DUCKWORTH."

This fully proves that the commander-in-chief had the option of availing himself of this spur in the side of the insensible Sultan—insensible, at least, to all that the ambassador and Sir John could produce to move him into acquiescence.

CHAPTER II.

The Dardanelles forced—A division of the Turkish fleet destroyed by Sir Sidney Smith—His despatch—Other official documents—His letter to Captain Dacre.

Our fleet passed the Dardanelles on the 19th of February. It was now that Sir Sidney Smith's talents and enterprise were called into action. He was directed, in case of anticipated opposition and resistance on the part of the Ottomans, with the rear division to destroy a Turkish squadron off Point Nagara Burun (or Pesquies.) This was effected by Sir Sidney Smith with three ships of the line, which led the invading fleet.

At a quarter before nine o'clock, the whole of the fleet had passed the outer castles without having returned a shot to the Turkish fire, which did our ships but little injury. This forbearance was intended to express the pacific disposition and anxiety of our sovereign and government

towards the Sublime Porte. But this mild and amicable demeanour the British force was not able long to maintain. In passing the narrow strait between Sestos and Abydos, our squadron sustained a very heavy fire from both castles. A tremendous cannonade was now opened by our ships of war in return, and with such an effect that the firing of the Turks was considerably slackened, and all our ships passed the fortifications without sustaining much injury.

It was at this crisis that the small Turkish squadron within the inner castles was attacked by Sir Sidney Smith, driven on shore, and burnt, and the guns of a formidable battery, to the number of more than thirty, on a point of land which our squadron had yet to pass, were spiked by a detachment of marines.

The following is a copy of the Rear-Admiral's report to Sir John T. Duckworth, concerning this brilliant affair.

"*His Majesty's Ship Pompée, within the Dardanelles,*
"*Feb.* 20, 1807.

"Sir,—In reporting to you the entire completion of the service you were pleased to order should be executed by the rear division under my immediate directions, I need not inform you that the ships were anchored in the thick of the

Turkish squadron, and in close action with them, as you must have observed it; but as the intervention of the land, after you passed the point, prevented your seeing the subsequent operations, it is my duty to acquaint you therewith. The Turks fought desperately, like men determined to defend themselves and their ships as long as they could; but the superiority of our fire, within musket-shot, obliged them in half an hour to run on shore on Point Pesquies, or Nagara Burun. As the redoubt on the point continued to fire, also as the ships kept their colours up, and the part of their crews which had deserted them remained armed on the beach, while a considerable body of Asiatic troops, both horse and foot, appeared on the hills, it was necessary to make an arrangement for boarding them with some precaution; at the same time that it was of consequence to press them closely before they recovered from the impression and effect of our cannonade. A few shells from the Pompée dispersed the Asiatics, and convinced them that we commanded the ground within our reach, and that they could not protect the green standard they had hoisted, which I caused to be brought off by Lieutenant Oates, of the Pompée's marines, that they might not rally there again. The Standard's guns bearing best on the frigates on

shore, I sent the Thunderer's boats to that ship, to be employed with her own under the direction of Captain Harvey, making the signal to him to destroy the enemy's ships in the N.E. The Active's having been previously made to follow and destroy a frigate which had cut her cable to get from under the Thunderer's and Pompée's fire, and run on shore on the European side, in the N.W.; at the same time, Lieutenant Beecroft, of the Pompée, was detached to take possession of the line-of-battle ship on which the Thunderer's and Pompée's guns could still bear, under the protection likewise of the Repulse, which you had considerately sent to my aid: that officer brought me the captain and second captain, the latter of whom was wounded; also the flag of the rear-admiral, who had escaped on shore, which I shall have the honour of presenting to you. The whole of the Turks were landed, in pursuance of your orders, including the wounded, with due attention to the sufferings of our misguided opponents, as I must call them; for the term enemy does not seem applicable, considering their evident good disposition towards us nationally. The ship was then set on fire by the Repulse's and Pompée's boats, and completely destroyed.

"Captain Harvey, in making his report to me

of the conduct of the boats' crews, under the command of Lieutenants Carter, Waller, and Colby of his Majesty's ship Thunderer, and of the marines employed with them, to board and burn the frigates and corvettes under the command o Captain Nicholls, speaks in strong terms of the gallantry and ability of them all. The latter whom I have long known to be an intelligent and enterprising officer, after destroying the frigate bearing the flag of the Capitan Pasha which is preserved to be presented to you, sir landed; and, profiting by the consternation of the Turks from the explosions on all sides of them the effects of which occasioned no small risk to him, Lieutenants Fynmore, Boileau, and the party, he entered the redoubt, (the Turks retreating as he approached,) set fire to the gabions and spiked the guns, thirty-one in number, eight of which are brass, carrying immensely large marble balls: as, however, the expected explosion of the line-of-battle ship made it impossible for the boats to stay long enough to destroy them effectually with their carriages, or to level the parapets, the wicker of the gabions being too green to burn, I have directed Lieutenants Carroll and Arabin of his Majesty's ship Pompée and Lieutenant Lawrie of the marines, to continue on that service, with the Turkish corvette

and one gunboat, which, you will observe by the return, were not destroyed; and to act under the protection and direction of Captain Moubray, of his Majesty's ship Active, whose name I cannot mention without expressing how highly satisfied I am with the able and gallant manner in which he executed my orders to stick to the frigate with which he was more particularly engaged, and to destroy her. Captain Talbot placed his ship admirably well in support of the Pompée, thereby raking the line-of-battle ship and the frigate we were engaged with, when I made his signal to anchor, as the Pompée had previously done, under the directions I gave for that purpose to Captain Dacres, which were promptly and ably executed; Mr. Ives, the master, applying his local knowledge and experience, as I had a right to expect from his long tried abilities, while Lieutenant Smith made my signals to the squadron in rapid succession, and with precision. Captain Harvey merits my entire approbation for placing the Standard in the manner in which he did, and for completing the destruction of the others. Much as I must regret the loss of the Ajax, as a most efficient ship in my division, I have felt that loss to be, in a great degree, balanced by the presence of my gallant friend Captain Blackwood, and the surviving officers and men,

whose zeal in their voluntary exertions on this occasion does them the highest credit: in short, all the captains, officers, and men concerned, merit that I should mention them in high terms to you, sir, as their leader, whose example we humbly endeavoured to follow. The signal success that has attended the general exertion under your direction, speaks more forcibly than words.

"I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) "W. SIDNEY SMITH."

"*Vice-Admiral*
"*Sir John Thomas Duckworth, K. B.*"

The Turkish squadron consisted of a sixty-four gun ship, four frigates, mounting altogether one hundred and forty-four guns, five corvettes and brigs, mounting sixty-eight guns, and two gunboats. Of these, one corvette and one gunboat were taken, and all the rest destroyed, together with a redoubt. The number of guns in favour of the Turks was fifty-three.

The following are the orders which Sir Sidney Smith received, in reference to this very brilliant service:—

"*Royal George, off the Dardanelles,*
"*February* 18, 1807.

"Sir,—As it appears, from the best information, that a Turkish squadron, consisting of one

ship of the line, some frigates, and corvettes, are at anchor off Pesquis, above the upper castles of the Dardanelles; it is my directions, in case the castles and forts should hostilely oppose our going up, and the ships and vessels of war should continue at their anchorage, that, with the Thunderer, the Standard, and the frigates, you bring to and destroy them; letting as many of their crews as their own boats can contain land, and receiving the remainder on board of his Majesty's ships, till an opportunity offers to put them on shore.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your most obedient
"humble Servant,
"J. T. DUCKWORTH.

"*To Rear-Admiral Sir W. Sidney Smith, &c.*
"*Pompée.*"

Some further particulars of this action may be gleaned from the following letters on service, from Captain Harvey to Sir Sidney Smith:—

"*Standard, Sea of Marmora,*
"*February* 20, 1807.

"'Sir,—Agreeably to your directions yesterday for destroying the Turkish frigates and corvettes on shore, near the Standard, I beg

leave to report the very able and gallant manner in which the officers employed on that service performed it.

"Previous to the Thunderer's boats arriving, I had despatched Captain Nicholls, of the royal marines, who very handsomely volunteered his services on the occasion, with Lieutenant Fynmore, royal marines, and Lieutenant de Bouille, Dillon's regiment, in a boat, to set fire to the frigate bearing the flag of the Capitan Pasha; in performing which service, one man was dangerously wounded in the boat. I have given you Captain Nicholls's report of the proceedings.

"The Thunderer's boats, under the direction of Lieutenants Carter, Waller, and Coleby, of that ship, I sent to destroy the other frigates and corvettes, which they very ably and gallantly performed; and I trust that the conduct of the officers employed in that service will meet your approbation.

"I have the honour to remain,
"Sir, your most obedient
"humble Servant,
"THOMAS HARVEY.

"*Sir Sidney Smith, Knt., &c.*"

Captain Nicholls boarded the ship bearing the flag of the Othman admiral, under a fire of mus-

ketry from the shore. After striking the flag and setting fire to the ship, he proceeded to destroy the battery on the point, on which he found thirty-one guns, eight of which were of brass, carrying a ball weighing upwards of two hundred pounds. The rest were thirty-two and twenty-four pounders, all of which he spiked, and blew up the magazine. He gave the admiral's flag to Captain Blackmore to send to Sir John Duckworth, and his jack he sent to Captain Harvey; by whom, as it appears by the subjoined letter, it was forwarded to Sir Sidney Smith.

" *Standard*, 21*st Feb.* 1807.

" Dear Sir,—I send you the names of the officers of the Standard and Thunderer employed in destroying the frigate and corvettes under my own eye and I assure you they merit your approbation; and, had not the Standard's two cutters been disabled by shot, and our yard tackles shot away, the officers of the Standard would have had a more active part.

" I send you the Capitan Pasha's jack. The ensign was shot away. The flag at the masthead was unfortunately, through mistake, given to Captain Blackmore.

" I shall do myself the honour of waiting on

you at three, if we remain quiet, and will bring Captain Nicholls.

"' Believe me, dear Sir,
" Your faithful humble Servant,
" THOMAS HARVEY.

" *To Sir Sidney Smith, Knt.*"

The following official communication relates to the close of the service off Point Nagara.

" *Active, at anchor off Pesquies,*
" 21*st February,* 1807.

" Sir,—The battery on Point Pesquies having been rendered unserviceable by the destruction of the gun-carriages, and spiking and filling the guns thereon, as were those in the wreck, I do myself the honour to communicate to you the completion of this service; and it is a very satisfactory part of my duty to bear testimony to the gallant and judicious conduct of Lieutenant Carroll of the Pompée, who speaks in the highest terms of praise of the officers and men under his direction.

" The Turks were in general kept in check by the fire of the Active and her launch; but they made one resolute push, whereby two men were wounded.

"I enclose a list of the officers and petty officers employed under Lieutenant Carroll's orders on the occasion, and a list of the wounded.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"R. M. MOUBRAY.

"*To Rear-Admiral*
"*Sir W. Sidney Smith, Knt., &c.*"

In this action, so spirited, and so completely successful, Captain Richard Dacres was Sir Sidney Smith's flag captain, and consequently in command of the Pompée.

It is highly creditable to our officer's character, that his urbanity and exceedingly gentlemanly deportment so much attached his officers to him, that they had always towards him the affection of a personal friendship. In Sir Sidney Smith's early career he had served under Captain Dacres, and on his promotion to the command of the Diamond, he wrote to the then lieutenant the following letter, so full of excellent feeling:—

"*Swallow-street, London, 3rd April,* 1794.

"My dear Sir—It has quite grieved me to see you hang so long on the lieutenants' list, and I have often wished that it were in my power to give you a lift towards that promotion that your

character and services so justly entitle you to; and, though I have ever named you as you deserved, when I thought that I could do you service, I have not positive interest enough to get you made. The only thing immediately in my power has afforded me an opportunity of mentioning your name at the Admiralty; and I sincerely hope that it may be a stepping-stone to your promotion, in case we should be so fortunate as to make additional claims from the situation that it is in my power to offer you.

"I am appointed to the Diamond, a fine eight-and-thirty, just launched in the river. Lord Chatham is so good as to allow me to name my officers, and I have, at a venture, named you FIRST; trusting that your confidence in my friendship will induce you to sacrifice all recollection of my being now placed as the commander of the man I was once happy to obey, and that you will accept the appointment.

"I, for my own part, freely confess, I make a sacrifice in making you the offer, feeling, as I do, for the delicacy of our mutual situation. In this respect, however, I know the goodness of your heart, temper, and good sense, and have no doubt but that we shall continue to add new links to that chain which first attached me to you,

"As your sincere friend,

"W. SIDNEY SMITH."

Lieutenant Dacres did not, however, remain long with his friend, but they, on that account, lost not sight of each other, and we now find the former sharing in this expedition, in that part of it only which was glorious.

CHAPTER III.

The commencement of the negociation with the Turks—Sir Sidney's advice asked by the Commander-in-Chief—The Turks procrastinate and arm—The English resolve to return.

On the 20th of February, in the evening, our squadron come to an anchor near Prince's Islands, about eight miles distant on the south-east from Constantinople. A novel, and almost a ridiculous process now began on the part of the English minister and the admiral; a kind of menacing courtship—a wooing by the mouths of heavy ordnance. The first step was taken by Mr. Arbuthnot sending a letter by a flag of truce to the seraglio, and to the Turkish government, recapitulating the efforts that had been made, by an amicable negotiation, to preserve the relations of peace and friendly intercourse which had unfortunately been interrupted by the intrigues of a party inimical to both Turkey and England.

Previously to Sir John Duckworth despatching

this public letter, he desired to see Sir Sidney Smith, who accordingly waited on the vice-admiral. On hearing it read, Sir Sidney offered a remark on the unnecessary introduction of a lieutenant of the Repulse into the drama, which had been going on well, and would have gone on better without his interference, he having lately pretended to act under superior authority to that of the lieutenant of the flag-ship of the rear-admiral, who was furnished with proper instructions to prepare everything for the ignition of the Turkish sixty-four, to hoist a flag when ready, and to wait for the affirmative answer from the Pompée, on the signal to put the match to the preparations.

She was set fire to previously to the signal, which was suspended, to allow time for the battery on the point to be completely destroyed, under the cover of the prize's guns, for the Standard to withdraw from the sphere of her explosion, and for the Pompée and Thunderer to pass her before she should be in flames.

The precipitation of the lieutenant of the Repulse, in firing the vessel too soon, was attributed to eagerness for the destruction of the sixty-four, as the signal to that effect was made by the Royal George. This complaint Sir Sidney did not urge, nor would he accept of Sir John Duck-

worth's offer to investigate his conduct, as it was not attended by any bad consequences, further than some risk to the Standard, some delay in junction of the Pompée and Thunderer with the van, and the impossibility of our maintaining the battery on Pesquies Point long enough to level it, though the guns were spiked.

Indeed, this was not fitting time to agitate nice points of precedence in command. We think that the blame, if any, would have been traced to the Royal George, in making the signal prematurely, which we do not see how the lieutenant of the Repulse could have disobeyed.

After this incidental subject was disposed of, the letter was again taken into consideration, which, after dwelling much on the amicable sentiments of the English government, asserted that there could be no clearer or more satisfactory proofs of the pacific disposition of his Britannic Majesty, than that the admiral had not immédiately proceeded to the execution of his orders, though the wind was fair for that purpose, but had consented to keep his fleet at a distance from the capital for so long a time as would be necessary to receive an answer to the letter. If that answer should be received to-morrow, (21st February,) before the setting of the sun, with satisfactory assurance that his Bri-

tannic Majesty's just demands were agreed to, then all demonstrations of hostility on the part of his Majesty should cease; but if not, the British admiral would act, in the event of war, according to the orders he had received from his government.

At the same time, a letter in a similar spirit was sent by Sir John Duckworth to the Reis Effendi—but a little more to the point, for he proposed to the Turkish government, as a condition of peace and amity, that the Sublime Porte should immediately deliver into his hands all his ships and vessels of war, with all necessary stores and provisions. The vice-admiral was graciously pleased to allow the space of half an hour after his note should be translated into the Turkish language, for the divan to deliberate and decide upon his proposition, protesting that, if he should be reduced to the hard necessity of seizing the ships, and all vessels of war, by force, and proceed to the destruction of Constantinople, for the accomplishment of which he possessed ample means, the blame would lie on the Sublime Porte, and and not on the King his master.

A vessel bearing these notes was despatched with a flag of truce, on the morning of the 21st; but the officer who had charge of them was not permitted to land. Mr. Arbuthnot then sent the

flag of truce once more, with a short additional note, that, from an ardent desire for peace, he had thought it right to make another effort for the delivery of the propositions before sent, and expressing in a few words to the Reis Effendi the contents of the rejected notes, which were to give the Sublime Porte the option of declaring himself either on the side of the French or the English; and that if he should prefer the former alternative, still the British admiral would spare the city, on condition of the whole of the Turkish fleet being surrendered to him, with a sufficiency of naval stores.

The diplomacy continued to be most signally one-sided. The Turks chose the wiser part; for whilst Mr. Arbuthnot was writing, they were arming — each to his occupation. Accordingly, in the middle of the night, between the 21st and 22d of February, our ambassador wrote another note to the Reis Effendi, stating that the English officers had discovered, by means of telescopes, how the time was employed that had been allowed to the Sublime Porte for coming to a decision on the subject of the former notes from himself and the British admiral. It stated that it had been observed that its subjects were busily engaged in withdrawing the ships of war from their usual stations to places more capable of defence, and in con-

structing batteries all along the coast. His highness the Sultan should give an assurance, in two words, that the good understanding should not be destroyed.

To these repeated notes, the Reis Effendi replied, that the proffered negotiation was considered merely as an artifice for gaining time. This was the retort courteous; the cunning Turk was doing exactly the thing of which he accused his opponents.

At this, which was probably intended, the old admiral's blood became of the fever heat, and he repelled with indignation the unfounded charge, observing, that they who could be guilty of such base suspicions, were themselves the very objects that merited to be suspected. He renewed the alternative that had already been repeatedly offered. He declared, upon his honour, though the English were prepared for war, they were desirous of peace, which, on the terms proposed, might be concluded in half an hour. He finished by stating, that if the Sublime Porte were really desirous to avert the calamities that were ready to be accumulated upon his capital, it would send a plenipotentiary on board of his ship early next morning for the purpose of concluding a peace. This took place on the 23rd.

It is evident that, in all this, the Turks were

gaining the advantage. The ambassador and the naval commander did not amalgamate well. Sir John Duckworth was for as much fighting and as little protocolling as possible; Mr. Arbuthnot for as little fighting as need be, provided it could be warded off by protocolling. Without meaning anything disrespectful to either character, we think that Sir Sidney Smith most excellently and efficaciously united the functions of both in his own person; he would have fought as manfully as the vice-admiral, and diplomatised more successfully than the ambassador. He knew the Turks well, and they knew him. They had a friendship for, and a confidence in, him; if there was a man in existence who could have adjusted this nice point, that man was our officer. But the rules of the service to which he was an ornament, and the forms of official etiquette, which ought then to have been laid aside, were opposed to his taking the chief part in these operations, the termination of which produced so little of advantage or of honour to the British nation.

After the receipt of Sir John Duckworth's imperative and hostile demand for peace and amity, early on the morning of the 24th of February, a letter was forwarded to the English admiral from the Reis Effendi, signifying the wish of the Sublime Porte to enter immediately into a negotiation for a definite treaty of peace, and requested

that a person invested with full powers on the part of the English might be sent to meet the Ottoman plenipotentiary.

A great source of contention now arose as to the precise spot where the conference should be held. The Turks wished for some place on shore under their control and command—the English either the Isle of Princes, or on board of their own flag-ship, or the Endymion frigate, lying at anchor before Constantinople, with a flag of truce. The most effectual negotiators, the line-of-battle ships and the bomb-vessels, were still wind-bound at the distance of eight miles from the city. Their presence would have had more weight than Mr. Arbuthnot and all his attachés.

It has been said that the admiral, when too late, saw his error, and moved his fleet four miles nearer the city. This is a mistake, as the wind did not permit him to move. Threats and cajoleries still continued to be inflicted upon the Turks, who, in the mean time, persevered most assiduously, night and day, in working at their fortifications, fully determined that the English should not depart from, so easily as they entered into, their narrow seas. Even acts of courtesy and generosity made no impression, but seem to have been received only to be resented; for, whilst the English sent back to the Seraglio

some Turks who had been taken in actual hostilities against the English, the Turks kept close prisoners five English seamen that had fallen into their hands, having gone some distance from their ship (the Endymion) in the jolly boat.

Both the European and Asiatic shores, and the narrows of Constantinople, now bristled with the guns of batteries. The havoc made by Sir Sidney Smith on the 19th of February seemed to have exasperated rather than intimidated them. The ships were burned and the redoubt taken, and the guns spiked in vain. Even the Grand Seignior himself, conducted by the French ambassador, General Sebastiani, appeared at the places most proper for the construction of fortifications and batteries.

The whole male population began to work—even the clergy put their sacred hands to the spade and wheel-barrow. The members of the divan and other grandees were on the busy scene day and night; they took their necessary repose in tents. The Grand Seignior fared no better. At the end of four days, batteries, with excellent breastworks, mounted with five hundred pieces of cannon and one hundred mortars, were completed. The English had constructed a few more diplomatic notes.

Whilst the two lines of coast thus presented

the spectacle of an almost continuous battery, completed in many parts, and in a state of great forwardness, in all, twelve Turkish line of battle-ships, two of them three-deckers, and nine frigates, filled with troops, lay in the canal, with their sails bent, apparently ready for action. An immense army destined to march against the Russians was in the city and the suburbs, and very numerous gun-boats and troops were also prepared to act against the hostile negotiators.

The whole force of the British then consisted only of eight ships of the line, two frigates, and two brigs; an enormous disproportion, and tending more to provoke aggression than to inspire intimidation.

When it was wholly too late, that question so indicative of weakness of mind, and infirmity of purpose, was asked of Sir Sidney Smith, "What ought we to have done?" A string of questions was propounded to him from the vice-admiral, bearing date the 27th of February.

From the queries and answers alluded to, we find that Sir Sidney Smith did not conceive that it would have promoted his Majesty's service to cannonade the city of Constantinople, on the first arrival of the British squadron. "There being reason to hope that the object in question might be gained by negotiation, when an immediate

hostility would have precluded intercourse, and all possibility of amicable discussion and arrangement."

From various causes, such as the circuitous eddies within the harbour, the prevalence of the northerly current of the Bosphorus, which, setting directly on the Seraglio Point, would prevent a disabled ship from extricating herself — the Turkish mode of warfare, every man using a rifle, &c.,—Sir Sidney Smith was also of opinion, that it would not have been advisable to have led the squadron to an attack on the arsenal.

Again, Sir John Duckworth asks:

"The negotiation with his Majesty's minister, Mr. Arbuthnot, having failed of success, do you consider the present squadron equal to forcing the Turkish government into terms, or to destroy their navy, and afterwards be in a state to pass the Dardanelles?"

To which the following answer was returned:

"Being necessarily in a state of hostility, as well from the engagements existing with Russia, as from the distinct menaces which have been held out to the Turkish government, in case of its not yielding to amicable representations, it seems advisable to try the effect of bombardment without, in the first instance, committing the line of battle ships to the fire under the new batteries

which have been raised under the directions of the French engineers. If this should provoke the Turks to risk their navy outside the harbour, we shall, therein, find our advantage. The effects of such bombardment, at the seat of government, may induce the divan to concede some points as the price of its cessation. It will divide the parties in the town more distinctly, and I think, isolate the war or French party from the other, to which it is presumed that the Sultan is most inclined; who will endeavour to re-open intercourse and negotiations with the ambassador, through which means our free intercourse with our resources on the other side of the Dardanelles may be conceded to us, as the price of our equivocal concession to the capital, for a limited time; for it is to be remembered, that this immense city is supplied from day to day by water in small boats, chiefly from Asia, with all kinds of provisions, corn coming by way of the Dardanelles: consequently, the position of the squadron, immediately off the town, shortens the duration of time the government can possibly hold out.

"Their magazines cannot have anything like four months' provisions, and the authority which sent this squadron hither, will, no doubt, take care that supplies are sent up, which can reach

us in the same way we reached this spot; and this being a key port, I think it ought not to be relinquished without an order counter to that by which it was occupied.

"The Turks, having their attention and resources directed to the defence of the capital, cannot execute the suggestions which, no doubt, the French engineers will make to them, of increasing their means of a cross fire in the Dardanelles. His Majesty's government is in possession of a plan of securing the European side of that entrance, in a manner to oppose the fire of those castles to the castle on the Asiatic side, by landing a body of troops behind the former, in the gulf of Saros; and having ordered this small squadron hither, must necessarily consider of and supply the means of supporting and extricating it.

"So long as the capital is closely blockaded and menaced by the squadron in its immediate vicinity, its councils are paralysed, and its authority weakened with respect to all the distant parts of the empire. His Majesty's officers employed elsewhere, can act, in the name of, and for, the Sultan, by representing him, as he is, a prisoner to the French faction; and it may not be impossible to get him secretly to convey his consent to us, in order that he may, by our means, preserve the

Asiatic and best part of his empire, when he sees the northern portion of it a prey to immediate invasion.

"To preserve terms with him personally, and prevent a greater degree of distress bearing on the peaceful inhabitants than need be, a warning to his Majesty, personally, to quit the Seraglio with his family, and our indication of Gallipolis, Lemnos, or Tenedos, as neutral places of refuge, might be sent officially, previously to the bombardment, and publicly circulated in the town with good effect."

This counsel, judicious as it appears to be, must have been very barren of consolation to Sir John Duckworth, in the straits in which he found himself. His extrication depended, if this advice were followed, entirely upon the prudence and foresight of our government at home—and he showed his good sense in not relying upon it. However, as Sir Sidney was more sanguine in this respect than his commander-in-chief, "his voice was still for war," for in a letter to him, dated on the first of March, he thus expresses himself:

"I should be wanting towards you, after the desire you have expressed to receive such suggestions as arise in my mind, if I omitted to submit to your consideration the utility of making a demonstration while the squadron is under way,

on the west end of the city, between the Seven Towers and the Western mosque; the effect of remaining in which position might make the government more apprehensive, which is averse to receiving the effect of our fire, than it is, of the party whose presumption or policy tends to provoke it, and prevents the Sultan listening to the ambassador's propositions. At any rate, it would induce the government to re-open intercourse, and give an opportunity of claiming a free passage for the ambassador through the Dardanelles, as was allowed to M. Italinski. I dare say they would gladly compound for getting rid of the whole of us, and consequently, that no orders exist at the forts below for firing on ships bound down; a firman, however, would be the best security for masts and yards, which are not to be had at Malta, even for a frigate. If you should decide to anchor again, the north coast of Marmora has the best anchorage."

Sir Sidney himself subsequently wrote to the governor of the castle at the Dardanelles, to dissuade him, individually, from hostilities; but, as it soon will be seen, with no successful result. In the rest of his letter, after mentioning some subordinate points, such as the conveyance of letters, &c. he proceeds thus:—

"I mention these things, in consequence of our

conversation, merely as means of doing what you may project, without urging or proposing any new measure, as I am persuaded that the Sultan's disposition, and that of the persons in his council, who were originally the parties of the triple alliance, remain the same, but that they are under the coercion of the French faction; who have found means to excite a fanatic mob to insurrection, and consequently that the government rather look to us for protection, in aid of a counter insurrection of the Sultan's adherents.

"Being sincerely anxious for your credit, I will venture to mention, before you repass the Dardanelles, (as I presume to be your intention,) by your getting under way with a north-east wind, that it is possible the courts of Petersburgh and England may have combined a military operation for possession of this capital; by means of the *two* fleets, one to the northward and the other to the southward, and a Russian army; in that case, the order that will come up will be positive, grounded on your having passed the Dardanelles upwards, which will be taken for granted from your known intrepidity, and the talent you have often evinced, as well as on this occasion, of attaching your followers to you, in emulation of your spirit of enterprise; in that event we shall have to pass them upwards again."

In a postscript to this letter, he remarks, "that the eddy runs from west to east, along the town wall; so that the fire-ships from the Bosphorus would not drift on us, as they would in our former berth in the stream, northerly."

But Sir John was not to be cajoled into remaining where he then was, either by the military display of an Anglo-Russian force, or by the well-turned compliments of the hero of Acre.

Sir Sidney's balked appetite for fighting was again excited, for spying the powder manufactory and magazine of the enemy, he pointed it out to Sir John, and thus endeavoured to inflame him to share in his longings.

"The ships," he observes, "can anchor at any distance from the shore the range of the mortars may require, or fire random shells under way with a chance of blowing the whole up, which will, of course, paralyze their fleet, as it is not allowed to have powder on board in the arsenals, nor do they venture to keep much at the depôt at Tophanna."

Sir John Duckworth thus declines all these friendly and well-meant invitations for a little repast in this style, for he answers, "That no man could feel more sensible of these strong modes of friendship, which he Sir Sidney Smith

had evinced towards him, by his various suggestions in his two letters; and most truly desirous was he to benefit by the aid of such talents, for he certainly knew that he had his all at stake; yet, with the decided manner in which the Porte had acted since their *projet*, it seemed impracticable to obtain any communication with it; and he really conceived, from delay, that great evil must arise, and his Majesty's service be considerably injured, without the most distant prospect of advantage; and to combat with an empire which appeared so positively hostile in a sea where the squadron was shut out from all possible resource, could not be attended with any advantage, but might eventually tend to the destruction of our squadron, which, in the present state of the Mediterranean, he felt could not be justified. As to the magazine, he certainly should be well disposed to destroy it, but from various information he had learned, that as fast as the powder was manufactured it was deposited in a place of safety; and it was not possible to suppose, when he had been off the town ten days, that the Turks, knowing that vulnerable part, would not have provided against our doing them so essential a mischief."

CHAPTER IV.

Sir John Duckworth leaves the Dardanelles—His official accounts of his proceedings.

On the 1st of March, Sir Thomas Duckworth weighed and made sail, in order to extricate himself from his perilous situation.

Although, up to the 27th of February, he had deluded himself with the vain hopes of peace, believing, notwithstanding the display of enthusiasm on the part of the populace, that the desire of the Sublime Porte to negotiate was sincere; yet whether this were the case or not, it seems that the heavens were as unpropitious to him as the obstinacy of the Turks, for, up to this day, such had been the adverse state of wind and weather, that he could not have left his dangerous situation, nor was it till the morning of the 1st of March that he could have occupied a station which would have enabled the squadron to have commenced offensive operations against Constantinople.

Even if this had not been the case, the English, after encountering a force which the resources of an empire had been employed for weeks in preparing, they would not have been able to maintain a successful conflict with the enemy, and then have repassed the Dardanelles. Indeed, had the delay been much longer protracted, the repassing of the Dardanelles would have been impossible. The fire from the two inner castles on our ships in the outward passage had been most severe; but, on their return, they found their defences to have become doubly formidable. Huge blocks of marble, of immense weight and size, were fired at our ships from stationary mortars. One of these, weighing eight hundred pounds, cut in two the mainmast of the Windsor Castle, and it was not without great exertions that the ship was saved. The course of these masses of stone being easily discovered, contact with them was avoided by the men slipping aside, and thus opening for them a clear passage.

The total loss sustained in this fruitless expedition was forty-two killed, two hundred and thirty-five wounded, and four missing; the Pompée's (Sir Sidney Smith's ship) share of which was only five seamen wounded.

We now proceed to give the vice-admiral's own

version of the matter, in his three official letters to his commander-in-chief, Lord Collingwood.

"*Royal George, off Constantinople, Feb.* 21.

"My Lord,—I had the honour of transmitting to your lordship, by the late first lieutenant of the Ajax, the various details relating to the transactions of the squadron till the 17th ult. Your lordship will, from thence, have been informed of my resolution of passing the Dardanelles the first fair wind. A fine wind from the southward permitted me to carry it into effect on the morning of the 19th. Information had been given me by his Majesty's minister, Mr. Arbuthnot, and Sir Thomas Louis, that the Turkish squadron, consisting of a sixty-four gun ship, four frigates, and several corvettes, had been, for some time, at anchor within the inner castle; and conceiving it possible they might have remained there, I had given orders to Rear-Admiral Sir Sidney Smith to bring up with the Thunderer, Standard, and Active, and destroy them, should our passage be opposed. At a quarter before nine o'clock, the whole of the squadron had passed the outer castles, without having returned a shot to their fire, (which occasioned but little injury.) This forbearance was produced by the desire of his Majesty's minister, expressed, to pre-

serve every appearance of amity, that he might negotiate with the strongest proof of the pacific disposition of our sovereign towards the Porte; a second battery on the European side fired also with as little effect. At half-past nine o'clock, the Canopus, which, on account of Sir Thomas Louis's knowledge of the channel, joined to the steady gallantry which I had before experienced, had been appointed to lead, entered the narrow passage of Sestos and Abydos, and sustained a very heavy cannonade from both castles, within point-blank shot of each. They opened their fire on our ships as they continued to pass in succession, although I was happy in observing that the very spirited return it met with had so considerably diminished its force, that the effect on the sternmost ships could not have been so severe.

"Immediately to the north-east of the castles, and between them and Point Pesquies, on which a formidable battery had been newly erected, the small squadron which I have already alluded to, were at anchor. The van division of our squadron gave them their broadsides as they passed, and Sir Sidney Smith, with his division, closed into the midst; and the effect of the fire was such, that, in half an hour, the Turks had all cut their cables to run on shore. The object of the rear-admiral

was then to destroy them, which was most rapidly effected; as in less than four hours the whole of them had exploded, except a small corvette, and a gun-boat, which it was thought proper to preserve. I enclose to your lordship a statement of their number; and when I add also an account of the loss his Majesty's ships have sustained, I cannot help expressing my satisfaction that we have suffered so slightly; as, had any of their stone shot, some of which exceeded eight hundred weight, made such a breach between wind and water, as they have done in our sides, the ship must have sunk; or had they struck a lower mast in the centre, it must evidently have been cut in two; in the rigging, too, no accident occurred that was not perfectly arranged in the course of next day. The sprit-sail yard of the Royal George, the gaff of the Canopus, and the maintopsail-yard of the Standard, are the only spars that were injured. It is with peculiar pleasure that I embrace the opportunity which has been at this time afforded, of bearing testimony to the zeal and distinguished ability of Sir Sidney Smith; the manner in which he executed the service entrusted to him was worthy of the reputation which he has long since so justly and generally established. The terms of approbation in which the rear-admiral relates the con-

duct of Captains Dacres, Talbot, Harvey, and Moubray, which, from my being under the necessity of passing the Point of Pesquies before the van could anchor, he had a greater opportunity of observing than I could, cannot but be highly flattering; but I was a more immediate witness to the able and officer-like conduct which Captain Moubray displayed in obedience to my signal, by destroying a frigate with which he had been more particularly engaged, having driven her on shore on the European side, after she had been forced to cut her cables, from under the fire of the Pompée and Thunderer. The sixty-four having run on shore on Pesquies Point, I ordered the Repulse to work up and destroy her, which Captain Legge, in conjunction with the boats of the Pompée, executed with great promptitude and judgment. The battery on the point, of more than thirty guns, which, had it been completely finished, was in a position to have annoyed the squadron most severely in passing, was taken possession of by the royal marines and boats' crews of the rear division, the Turks having retired at their approach, and the guns were immediately spiked. This service was performed under the direction of Captain Nicholls, of the Standard's marines, whose spirit and enterprise can never be doubted; but as circum-

stances rendered it impracticable to effect the entire destruction of the Redoubt, orders were given by Sir Sidney Smith to Captain Moubray, which I fully approved, to remain at anchor near the Pesquies, and to employ Lieutenants Carrol and Arabin, of the Pompée, and Lieutenant Lawrie, of the marines, to complete the demolition of the redoubt and guns, which when performed, the Active was to continue in the passage of the Dardanelles till further orders.

"At a quarter past five P.M. the squadron was enabled to make sail; and on the evening of the next day, the 20th, came to an anchor at ten o'clock, near the Prince's Islands, about eight miles from Constantinople, when I despatched Captain Capel, in the Endymion, to anchor near the town, if the wind, which was light, would permit the ship to stem the current, to convey the ambassador's despatches to the Sublime Porte, in the morning, by a flag of truce; but he found it impracticable to get within four miles, and consequently anchored at half-past eleven P.M. I have now the highest satisfaction to add, that the conduct of the officers and ships' companies of the squadron, under my command, has fully supported the character of the British navy, and is deserving of my warmest eulogium. Having endeavoured to pay just tribute to those whose

duty necessarily called them into this service, I should feel myself very deficient if I omitted to mention that his Majesty's minister, Mr. Arbuthnot, and Lord Burghersh, (who had requested to take a cruise with me,) were amongst the most animated in the combat. To Captain Blackwood, who, after the unfortunate loss of the Ajax, volunteered to serve in the Royal George, great praise is due for his able assistance in regulating the fire of the middle and lower decks; and when the Royal George anchored, he most readily offered his services to convey a message to the Endymion, of great moment, her pilot having refused to take charge of the ship. From thence he gave his assistance to arrange the landing of the troops from the Sixty-four, and setting her on fire: indeed, where active service was to be performed, there was his anxious desire to be placed. His officers, too, requested to serve in the squadron; and their services, in passing the Dardanelles, met with approbation.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) "J. T. DUCKWORTH."

In another letter to Lord Collingwood, dated the 28th of February, Sir John mentions "an unfortunate attempt of the marines and boats'-crews of the Canopus, Royal George, Windsor

Castle, and Standard, who, under the command of Captain Kent, were sent to take a party of Turks who were erecting a battery on the island of Prota. Captain Kent had positive orders not to pursue the object, if he found it attended with any hazard; but it appeared that the information of a few Turks only having remained on the island was entirely false, as nearly a hundred of them had retired to an old convent, from loopholes in the walls of which they defended themselves with musketry. In this affair we had Lieutenant Belli, a young officer of the fairest promise, and four seamen, one officer, and one private marine, killed; two officers, three petty officers, and five seamen; one officer, two non-commissioned officers, and six private marines, wounded."

On the 6th of March the Vice-Admiral writes thus to his commander-in-chief:

"*Royal George, without the Dardanelles, March 6th.*

"My Lord—Together with this letter, I transmit to your lordship two letters of the 21st and 28th ult., the former of which will have informed you of my arrival with the squadron near Constantinople, and the latter, of an unlucky attempt,

in which the marines and boats' crews of the Canopus, Royal George, Windsor Castle, and Standard, had been engaged.

"It is now my duty to acquaint your lordship with the result of the resolution which, for the reasons I have already detailed, I had adopted, of forcing the passage of the Dardanelles. My letter of the 21st is dated at anchor eight miles from Constantinople, the wind not admitting of a nearer approach; but the Endymion, which had been sent a-head with a flag of truce, at the request of the ambassador, was enabled to anchor within four miles. Had it been then in our power, we should then have taken our station off the town immediately; but as that could not be done from the rapidity of the current, I was rather pleased than otherwise with the position we had been forced to take; for, in the conferences between Mr. Arbuthnot and the Capitan Pacha, of the particulars of which your lordship is in possession, it was promised by Mr. A. that even when the squadron had arrived before Constantinople, the door to pacification should remain open, and that he would be willing to negociate on terms of equality and justice. In consideration of this promise, and as it would convince the Porte of his Majesty's earnest desire to preserve peace, as well as possess its ministers with

a confidence in the sincerity of our professions, it was the opinion of Mr. A., in which I concurred, that it was fortunate we had anchored at a little distance from the capital, as a nearer approach might have given cause for suspicion and alarm, and have cut off the prospect of an amicable adjustment of the differences which had arisen.

"At noon of the 21st, Ysak Bey, a minister of the Porte, came off; from whose expressions Mr. Arbuthnot thought it impossible not to believe, that in the head of the government (for in the present instance every circumstance proved that between him and the armed populace a great distinction is to be made) there really existed a sincere desire for peace; and the negociation was carried on, as will appear by the documents transmitted to your lordship, till the 27th; but from the moment of our anchorage till we weighed, on the morning of the 1st of March, such was the unfortunate state of the weather, that it was not at any time in our power to have occupied a situation which would have enabled the squadron to commence offensive operations against Constantinople. On Sunday the 22nd alone, for a few hours, the breeze was sufficient to have stemmed the current where we were placed; but such was its rapidity on the shore where

574 818

the Endymion was at anchor, that Captain Capel thought it very doubtful whether the squadron could have obtained an anchorage, though it had been held in preparative readiness, by signal, from daybreak; but the peculiarly unsettled state of the weather, and the minister's desire that I should give a few hours for an answer to his letter, through Ysak Bey, prevented me from trying. Before five o'clock P.M. it was nearly calm, and in the evening the wind was entirely from the eastward, and continued light airs or calm till the evening of the 28th, when it blew fresh from the N.E., and rendered it impossible to change our position.

"Two days after our arrival near Constantinople, the ambassador found himself indisposed, and has been ever since confined with a fit of illness, so severe as to prevent him from attending to business. Under these circumstances, he had delivered in on the 22nd, to the Turkish minister, a projet, as the basis on which peace might be preserved; and, at his desire, the subsequent part of the negociation was carried on in my name, with his advice and assistance; and while I lament most deeply that it has not ended in the re-establishment of peace, I derive consolation from the reflection, that no effort has been wanting on the part of Mr. Arbuthnot and my-

self to obtain such a result, which was soon seen, from the state of the preparations at Constantinople, could be effected by negociation only, as the strength of the current from the Bosphorus, with the circuitous eddies of the port, rendered it impracticable to place ships for an attack without a commanding breeze, which, during the ten days I was off the town, it was not my good fortune to meet with.

"I now come to the point of explaining to your lordship the motives which fixed me to decide on repassing the channel of the Dardanelles, and relinquishing every idea of attacking the capital; and I feel confident it will require no argument to convince your lordship of the utter impracticability of our force having made any impression, as, at this time, the whole line of the coast presented a chain of batteries; that twelve Turkish line of battle ships, two of them three-deckers, with nine frigates, were with their sails bent, and apparently in readiness, filled with troops; add to this, near two hundred thousand were said to be in Constantinople, to march against the Russians; besides, there were an innumerable quantity of small craft, with boats; and fire-vessels had been prepared to act against us. With the batteries alone we might have coped, or with the ships, could we have got them

out of their stronghold; but your lordship will be aware, that after combating the opposition which the resources of an empire had been many weeks employed in preparing, we should have been in no state to have defended ourselves against them as described, and then repass the Dardanelles. I know it was my duty, in obedience to your lordship's orders, to attempt every thing (governed by the opinion of the ambassador) that appeared within the compass of possibility; but when the unavoidable sacrifice of the squadron committed to my charge, (which must have arisen, had I waited for a wind to have enabled me to cannonade the town, unattended by the remotest chance of obtaining any advantage for his Majesty's service,) must have been the consequence of pursuing that object, it at once became my positive duty, however wounded in pride and ambition, to relinquish it; and if I had not been already satisfied on the subject, the increased opposition in the Dardanelles would have convinced me I had done right, when I resolved on the measure as indispensably necessary. I therefore weighed with the squadron on the morning of the 1st; and as it had been reported that the Turkish fleet designed to make an effort against us, to give them an opportunity, if such was really their intention, I continued to stand

on and off during the day, but they showed no disposition to move. I therefore, as every hour was of importance, bore up at dusk with the squadron: we arrived off Point Pesquies towards the evening of the 2nd instant; but the daylight would not admit of our attempting to pass the castles, and the squadron came to anchor for the night; we weighed in the morning, and, when I add that every ship was in safety outside of the passage about noon, it was not without the most lively sense of the good fortune that has attended us.

"The Turks had been occupied unceasingly, in adding to the number of their forts; some had been already completed, and others were in a forward state. The fire of the two inner castles had, on our going up, been severe; but, I am sorry to say, the effects they have had on our ships returning, has proved them to be doubly formidable; in short, had they been allowed another week to complete their defences throughout the channel, it would have been a very doubtful point whether a return lay open to us at all. The manner in which they employed the interval of our absence has proved their assiduity. I transmit your lordship an account of the damages sustained by the respective ships; as also their loss in killed and wounded, which your lordship

will perceive is far from trifling. The mainmast of the Windsor Castle being more than three-quarters cut through by a granite shot of eight hundred weight, we have found great difficulty in saving it.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"J. T. DUCKWORTH.

"P.S. I am sorry to observe, that, in the course of this letter to your lordship, I have omitted to mention, that having placed the honourable Captain Capel, in the Endymion, which had been advanced in the stream of the Bosphorus, for the purpose of ascertaining when the squadron could stem the current, and for a watchful observation of the movements of the Turks, as well as to facilitate communication with the Porte, I feel myself indebted to that officer for his zealous attention and assiduity during the time he was placed in that arduous situation.

"J. T. D."

CHAPTER V.

Sir John Duckworth thanks the officers and seamen under his command, and particularises Sir Sidney Smith—Sir Sidney's opinion of the attempt—His poem on the occasion—The opinion of the Admiralty of his merits—He returns to England.

Acting under the command of another, Sir Sidney Smith, whilst he escapes all the unpleasantness of the failure of this ill-advised expedition, may justly claim the full credit of the little part of it which proved successful.

On the 4th of March, Sir John Duckworth issued the following letter of thanks to the officers, &c. under his command:—

"Although unforeseen and insurmountable obstacles prevented the squadron under my command from effecting, at Constantinople, the objects which it had in view, I cannot refrain from offering my most heartfelt acknowledgments to all who have so nobly contributed their exertions

throughout the arduous service in which we have been engaged. To Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Louis, who, with the gallantry and cool judgment which marked his character, led the squadron, and to Rear-Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, I beg to present my sincere thanks for their able assistance, as well as to the captains, officers, seamen, and royal marines, for the steady bravery which has been so eminently displayed in forcing and returning through a passage so strongly fortified by nature and by art, and which had, till now, been deemed impregnable."

The copy of this document, addressed to the subject of this memoir, was accompanied by the following lines:—

"Feeling that the want of ultimate success should not restrain me from doing that justice I owe to those who have so handsomely supported the honour of their country, I enclose you a copy of thanks I think it my duty to issue, as a tribute of my approbation and obligation to the squadron, and to none more than you, my dear Sir; for which I again offer you my thanks, as I am, with high esteem and regard, &c. &c.

(Signed) "J. T. DUCKWORTH.

"*Sir W. S. Smith.*"

Before we take leave of this expedition, it is not out of place to remark, that Sir John Duckworth did all that ever was expected from him. The affair itself was so ill contrived, that its failure was all but a moral certainty. The whole transaction fully reminds one of the very sensible reply made by the Turkish envoy to Charles VII. of France, when asked his opinion of a grand tournament exhibited for his amusement. He remarked that, "if it was in good earnest, there was not enough of it done; but, if it was in jest, too much."

Indeed, this very defeat was an advantage to us; for had we succeeded in partially destroying Constantinople—to get possession of it was out of the question—and have deprived the Turks of their fleet, we should only have drawn upon us fresh evils by the enduring exasperation and enmity of the Turks, at a period, too, when it was of the utmost consequence to secure their good will. The fleet might have been some little acquisition to our naval resources, but the partial destruction of the town, whilst it would have proved a stinging and unpardonable insult to the Turks, would have been laughed at as an injury, so simple and so slovenly is the construction of the generality of their houses.

The conflagration threatened by Sir John

Duckworth only calls to our recollection an offer made by a former Dey of Algiers to a similar menace. "How much," said he, "will it cost to put it in practice? I will myself undertake to do it for half the price."

The squadron, after leaving the Dardanelles, proceeded to the coast of Egypt, where it arrived a few days after the surrender of Alexandria and its forts to the naval and military forces under the respective commands of Sir Benjamin Hallowell and Major-General Fraser. Thus, in the lapse of a very few years, we twice took this place from the French, formerly as the ally, and now as the enemy of the Turks. Such are the mutations of human policy!

As it is of great consequence to know what was the opinion of this expedition of a commander so renowned and so able as is Sir Sidney Smith, and of one, too, actually on the spot and actively serving in the affair, we may, with justice, still continue to dwell upon it, by giving our hero's impression of this unfortunate transaction.

This opinion should be studied with care, and indeed the whole course of the proceedings well weighed throughout. If the reader be professional, the advantage must be great to him; and even as regards the civilian, nothing will tend more to make officials zealous in their duties, and en-

lightened as to their manner of performing them, than a general, not a technical knowledge, of military and naval affairs, spread throughout the community at large. Incapacity ought never to be permitted to shelter itself under the screen of national ignorance.

This extract from a letter of Sir Sidney Smith well expresses what he thought upon the conduct of this unsuccessful business.

"*Pompée, off the Island of Tenedos, March* 11, 1807.

"I have written at length to ——, to ——, and to ——, as I could seize moments in the midst of my occupations; amongst which throwing in hints my experience dictates, to prevent things going from bad to worse, has been an unceasing one, though, I fear, a thankless office.

"However, a sense of duty makes me act conscientiously, and my motives are not doubted by those who do not follow the advice, or take the early warnings I have given. 'Tis poor consolation to me to see the result sometimes justify my predictions; 'tis painful to see so much within our reach, whilst our means of realising any object are inapplicable, notwithstanding their apparent magnitude, 'Tis painful to look back, and

see our ascendency in these countries lost by the political experiment of sending new diplomatic men, who (whatever their talents) had to buy their local experience, and, during their noviciate, were totally in the hands of a deep man, who, if not in the French interest, was in that of the Turks, which becoming blended, latterly, by the march of the Russians into Moldavia and Wallachia, enabled Buonaparte to induce the Turks to see their safety in the success of the French arms, and not to listen to the counsels of the British ambassador, who could no longer speak as an ally after the expiration of our treaty, which was, as you know, signed by S—— and me on the 6th of January, 1799.

"The Turks are wrong in their calculations after all, for they have more to fear from French pretended friendship, than from the passage of the Russian troops through two provinces that hardly belonged to them. I am quite sure that I could have made you see this, if I had been allowed to open a collateral intercourse with those who could have overruled the fanatic junta and mob by our aid. These latter will be the victims in the end. *Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat,* you will have said on the first knowledge you had of this rupture; the Sultan knows better, but the ecclesiastical and judicial

bodies being in one, and having a vote in everything, he cannot act as sound policy dictates.

"S—— can explain this to you, and will agree with me in the advice I sent the poor Sultan, by his confidential messenger Isack Bey, viz. to employ the three fleets combined to chastise the rebels, and guard his capital against the French. I am convinced he was personally sorry to see us go," &c.

In the postscript to this letter, he thus acknowledges the services of a meritorious young officer. "I ought not to omit to say, for your satisfaction, that your son T. proved himself to be of a good breed, by steady, clear-headed conduct, in the situation I entrusted to him, of signal lieutenant with me on the poop, where we could see round us, and know the worst."

In some of these remarks, we think that our officer was a little mistaken, for the enthusiasm against the English was almost general, and the Sultan must have been a most accomplished hypocrite, if he did not possess more than his share of it. That Sir Sidney Smith much disapproved of the whole of this expedition, we have made tolerably evident; and it is probable, as we have before ventured to express, had the whole conduct of it have been left to him, its

termination would have been very different—either eminently triumphant to the British arms, or—but the probabilities did not lie this way—ruinously disastrous. He was not the man for temporising measures.

He was, however, more inclined to ascribe the original cause of its failure to the mismanagement of Mr. Arbuthnot, than to any error of the commander-in-chief. Indeed, from a private letter from Sir John Duckworth to Sir Sidney Smith, it appears that, even after their return to England, and at the very time of the height of the public outcry at the failure of the expedition, a perfect harmony and general good feeling continued to be preserved between the two flag-officers.

From the letter alluded to, it appears Sir John Duckworth was on the point of setting out for Bath, in the hope of obtaining relief from a rheumatic complaint, and he returned thanks to Sir Sidney for his kind attention in transmitting to him certain documents, on service, which related to events that had occurred since their separation; and he also expressed his happiness in having a man of his honour and character to bear him out in his representation of not having had the power to destroy the Turkish fleet, or to effect a political change in the government. Sir John much regretted the contention of parties, and the freedom

of abuse which had been exercised; but he says, "Feeling confident that the good of our country governed all my actions, I must endeavour to bear it with patience, though it is cruel to be put to such a trial."

But we are not always to regard our hero, Sir Sidney Smith, as the hero with the sword in his hand, and the speaking-trumpet to his lips, not always as an aquatic Mars; but sometimes we must contemplate him as an Apollo, in a rear-admiral of the blues full-dress uniform, after having ordered the boatswain's mate to pipe to dinner, himself piping on the melodious reed: he conquers, and then commits the account of his deed, not to the flames, as he did the Turkish squadron, but to immortal verse.

We must premise, that many years ago, when the Turks would neither be beaten into peace nor compliancy, there was just enough of superstition in the navy to make omens half believed and half derided. Shortly after this splendid achievement of Sir Sidney's, many very brave and wise officers were commenting upon their favourite oracle, Francis Moore, physician, astrologer, and almanac-maker, and how very apposite were his mystic leaves to the passing events, for, for that very year he had prognosticated, "About this time the Turkish emperor dies, or, it may be, he hides

his head; his people are tumultuous; let him save his life if he can. I give him fair warning of it."

Kind and considerate Francis Moore! How much was the Sultan obliged to you, how much more we! for this accurate prophecy was the cause of the following effusion from the gallant hero of Acre.

"AJAX,[1] alas! devouring flames destroy!
His ashes left before the walls of Troy.
CANOPUS[2] led the way 'twixt neighbouring strands,
'Tween Sestos and Abydos, throng'd with Turkish bands.
Dreading REPULSE,[3] the Turks dar'd not assail;
The British STANDARD[4] turn'd the Crescent pale;
On Cæsar's allies, POMPE'E[5] vengeance wreaks,
And rushing in amidst, their line he breaks;
Whilst showers of deadly bolts the THUNDERER[6] hurl'd;
The anchor drops—again the sails are furl'd;
Whilst ASIA[7] trembles with explosions dire,
An ACTIVE[8] torch in Europe spreadeth fire:
The Pasha's fleet in fragments on the coast,
Propontis now doth bear the British host:[8]
Its dread approach each Turkish heart appals,
For WINDSOR CASTLE'S[9] at Byzantium's walls!
Grim LUCIFER'S[10] his brimstone doth prepare,
Whilst fiery METEOR[11] glows to darken'd air.
Th' astonished Turks, who ne'er beheld the like,
Fear ROYAL GEORGE'S[12] a final blow should strike.
Mercy they beg. ENDYMION'S[13] stands between—
The hand of power to mercy still doth lean.

A truce[14] requested, and obtained, they break,
Loud tumults Sultan Selim's throne do shake;[15]
The fate of empires but a thread doth bear,—
Suspended hangs the blow of death in air.[16]
'Tis not yet time,' (saith Moore,) 'the spell to break
That shackles Greece—'tis not yet time to take
Revenge on Europe's scourge—Mahomet's race,'
A greater scourge for them his wand's lines trace.
The curse of hell—the greatest man hath seen!
'Tis Buonaparté's friendship he doth mean."

With all deference to Sir Sidney Smith, Francis Moore did not say all that is imputed to him. He would have been a happy man if he could have said it. To understand the full beauty of this Homeric burst of poetry, the reader must observe that all the words printed in small capitals designate the ships employed in the action. We dare not longer dwell upon this fascinating subject; but, for the better understanding this effusion, we shall subjoin the following explanatory notes from an already-named officer, who shared in the conflict which the poem describes.

"It is not necessary to point out the play on words that prevails throughout these lines, in reference to the ships' names; which, without the amphibology being in the least sought for by the writer, would naturally suggest itself where it

was intended to say but little, and there was but little else essential to fill the space. With this admission, the piece is by no means deficient in either poetical conception or metrical beauty; and the close, however strongly worded, is an expression of genuine English and—one may say—philanthropic feeling that does the gallant poet real honour.

"1. The Ajax was destroyed by fire accidentally.

"2. The Canopus was the leading ship of the squadron. 'Twixt neighbouring strands' perhaps also alludes to the Canopian branch of the Nile, whence she takes her name.

"3. The Repulse was the next ship, the second in the line of sailing.

"4. An officer from the Standard, with some other ships' boats, took the Capitan Pasha's flag.

"5. The Pompée, with the Thunderer and the Standard, ran in and anchored in the midst of the Turkish squadron.

"6. She also anchored.

"7. The Active, in a manner worthy of her name, engaged, drove on shore, and burned a very large Turkish frigate. All the Turkish ships blew up, soon after being fired, with terrible explosions. A furnace for heating shot was also blown up.

"8. The rest of the squadron, after passing the

batteries, anchored below them whilst the above service was being performed.

" 9. She anchored, with the rest of the squadron, off Constantinople.

" 10. Their fears unfortunately proved vain!—meaning the British squadron. The Royal George bore the admiral's flag, and had also the British ambassador on board.

" 11, 12. The Lucifer and Meteor were two bomb-ships. Orders had been given from the flag-ship to make every requisite preparation for bombarding and firing the town.

" 13. The Endymion was the medium of intercourse by flag of truce. She was anchored between the squadron and the city of Constantinople, just without gunshot of the Seven Towers.

" 14. Before any British act of hostility had been committed since forcing the passage of the Dardanelles, on the 26th of February, the Turks made prisoners a midshipman and four men, (the jolly-boat's crew of the Endymion,) who were purchasing stock on the Island of Prota. The melancholy consequences of our retaliation are known the loss of an officer—and several men killed, and many more wounded.

" 15. The day after our appearance off Constantinople, all the shops were shut up, and nobody thought of anything but arming against the common enemy. On the night of the

27th the malecontents burned down a large square of new buildings, intended to be occupied by the Janissaries; a token of disapprobation of the measures of government not uncommon, and very well understood.

"16. The movements of the British squadron depended on the wind."

As we are now on classic ground, it is not foreign to our subject to state, that though geographers commonly assert the castles of the Dardanelles to be built on the ruins of the ancient Sestos and Abydos, yet they are evidently mistaken, for these towns are on the western entrance of that narrow strait where, on the Asiatic shore, there is a sort of rising ground, similar to a rampart, which has the appearance of the ruins of a castle. There is also a hillock on the European side; to the northward of which is a castle in ruins, called by the Turks "Allack," which is used as a habitation by a dervise, and may probably be a fragment of Sestos.

Following the coast for between three or four miles, there is a Cape, called by the Turks "Kepos Bornou," and by the Europeans, Cape Berbier, which is most likely the site of the ancient "Promontine Dardanium" of the ancients. There is there an artificial eminence, which is

very likely to be the remains of the ancient little town of Dardanum; its name would now have been buried in oblivion, but for the peace which was there made between Mithridates and Sylla, generals of the Roman army.

To the northern side of Dardanum there is a valley which stretches itself towards the Levant, where probably was "Orphrynium," Hector's wood, which writers place near Dardanum, and the Lake Pteleus; for a sort of marsh is there observable.

Farther south are the high white mountains, which stretch in a northerly direction from the plains of Troy, and near the sea. It must have been on one of these hills that Rhætium was situated, as it is said to have been built on a mountain.

For these remarks we are indebted to an intelligent traveller, Mr. M'Kenzie.

But to return to Sir Sidney Smith.

It would naturally be judged, that even in the command off the Sicilian coast, Sir Sidney Smith was not adequately placed by the Lords of the Admiralty; indeed, Earl Grey acknowledges that the appointment was not given him as one commensurate with his professional skill and acknowledged general ability. In one of the Earl's letters it is stated that he was nominated to that

command " till a more active scene of exertion should present itself."

That Sir Sidney Smith had some great political or military views of his own, prior to his receiving the command in Sicily, is evident from the letter alluded to, in which Earl—then Mr. Grey—at that time the first lord of the Admiralty, observes, that he was " altogether ignorant of the nature of the service which Sir Sidney had stated had been agreed upon between him and Lord Nelson, there being no paper affording the least trace or explanation of it at the Admiralty. Upon the expediency of continuing this plan I cannot, at present, venture to express my opinion; in general, I must confess, that the ill success of the attempts that have already been made, has given me rather an unfavourable impression with respect to attacks of this nature, in which ships and men have always been exposed to great dangers, and sometimes lost to their country, without any advantage, hitherto, to compensate the sacrifice. A part of the service, too, is precluded by the unfortunate events of the war on the Continent, which have left no opportunity of acting, at present, against the French armies."

None but Sir Sidney Smith, and those whom he consulted, can now tell us the nature of the service contemplated; but, under the circum-

stances, Mr. Grey recommended Sir Sidney to submit his plans to Lord Collingwood, with whom would rest the decision as to the propriety of carrying them into effect. "I know all," said Mr. Grey, "that is expected from your general knowledge, activity, and resources; and I beg you to remain in the Mediterranean; and my wish will be to find you immediate employment in the Channel fleet: for that service we shall be greatly in want of officers of experience, and I am confident you will readily give your service where it is most desired. I have, therefore, written to Lord Collingwood, to tell him that you will be wanted for the Channel service, and have desired his lordship, accordingly, to send home the Pompée, conceiving that you will probably be desirous to retain the same ship in which your flag is at present hoisted. I have, consequently, to hope very soon to have the pleasure of seeing you here, upon your return to the Mediterranean, before you proceed to join the Channel fleet."

This letter was forwarded in one from Lord Collingwood, dated February 26th, in which his lordship says, "I have enclosed the orders for that purpose to Sir Thomas Louis, as I conclude Sir John Duckworth will have left you before this can arrive. I have, at present, great anxiety to know what part the Turks have taken. If

hostilities had been necessary, your local knowledge would have been highly beneficial in the service to be performed."

This eagerness for giving our officer a more extended sphere of service, and to place him in that spot where most difficulties abounded, is highly flattering to his reputation. At the time these transactions with the Turks were taking place, it was not known at home that Sir Sidney Smith had been called upon to take any part in them, for the first Lord of the Admiralty who succeeded Mr. Grey, thus writes to the rear-admiral, in a letter dated 2nd February, 1807.

"When I had the honour of being first called to the naval department, I understood that it was probable that Lord Collingwood would either himself have taken the command at Sicily, or that he would have sent Vice-Admiral Duckworth thither. Very soon, however, it appeared to be desirable that Vice-Admiral Duckworth should proceed to Constantinople, and it had been my intention to have proposed to you to have you there with him. More recent events have since changed those destinations, and with the very large army which is now in Sicily, it hardly can be necessary to keep, for that island, a rear-admiral's flag and four sail of the line, besides frigates. In concert, therefore, with the king's servants, I have recommended to Lord

Collingwood no longer to appropriate to Sicily so extensive a naval force as that which is now under your flag, but to divide his attention and means between the defence of Sicily and the blockading of Toulon."

Sir Sidney Smith did not of course receive the first lord of the Admiralty's letter till after his arrival at Alexandria, to which place he proceeded with the squadron, after the repassing of the Dardanelles.

In consequence of this recal, Sir Sidney Smith, with the Pompée, arrived in England in June, 1807.

When thus returned to his own country, instead of being permitted to retain the Pompée, and being employed in the Channel, he saw that fine ship transferred to Vice-Admiral Stanhope, in order that she might proceed to the expedition against Copenhagen. This was, undoubtedly, the result of some political manœuvre; but it was a proceeding not very flattering to Sir Sidney Smith, or grateful to the feelings of the captain and officers of the ship he had so lately commanded. Thus was our hero precluded from sharing in the dangers and the glory of the very questionable attack upon the Danes. In the ignominy of the design, those who so brilliantly executed the latter cannot be made to share in the former.

CHAPTER VI.

The situation of Portugal as regarded England and France —The Portuguese court throw themselves under the protection of the British fleet—The Portuguese fleet join Sir Sidney Smith's squadron in the first instance, and finally sail for the Brazils with the Prince Regent—The official despatches.

Rear-Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, as we mentioned in the last chapter, returned to England, where he arrived in the month of June.

There was but a short respite for repose left to Sir Sidney before he was again employed in active service. During this period of inaction as a public character, how he was employed, as it was peculiarly of a private nature, we do not deem it necessary to record. It is only sufficient for us to state that his popularity went before him as a herald, ushering him with the greeting of welcome into all ranks of society, among which he soon became as much noticed

for his amiable manners and great powers of conversation, as he was admired for the conspicuous and glorious part that he had played on the theatre of the world.

On the 27th of October, 1807, he was appointed commander-in-chief of a squadron destined for particular service, the nature of which was not long in transpiring. The coast of Portugal was his destination, and his squadron was soon after put into requisition, to expedite a very important, but, owing to the agitated state of the world, no longer an isolated act, among the rulers of the earth. We have lately lived in times, in which dynasties of the greatest antiquity have been overthrown, kingdoms and principalities made and unmade, with as little remorse as the enactment and the repeal of a turnpike-bill, —indeed, the standing rule seems to have been that of eternal change. Whether the mutation shall be for the good or evil of mankind in the aggregate, posterity only will be able to tell. The advantage *may* be theirs—the certain misery is ours.

After the peace of Tilsit, Buonaparte, with ambitious insatiability, and an unrelenting animosity towards England, turned his eyes towards the small, but ancient and respectable, kingdom of Portugal, and commenced with the arbitrari-

ness too often attendant upon intoxicating success, to demand, firstly, that the Prince Regent should shut up all the Portuguese ports against England; secondly, that he should detain all Englishmen as prisoners who were then residing in his dominions; and, lastly, that he should immediately confiscate all British property upon which he could lay his hand. The alternative of a concession to these arrogant and unjust proposals was an immediate war; and, to prove how serious he was in his determination to have all his demands complied with, Buonaparte commenced by giving orders that all Portuguese merchant vessels should be detained that were then in any port under the domination of France.

The Prince Regent, knowing his inability to contend with so powerful an opponent, or to resist an aggression so wanton and insulting, attempted to temporise, in hopes, ultimately, to escape the storm that was gathering for his destruction. He, therefore, acceded to shutting up his ports against England, but hesitated to comply with the two other requisitions, as being contrary to the principles of public law, and in direct violation of the treaties then subsisting between the two nations.

These measures, however, were too doubtful to place any reliance of safety upon them, and the

Portuguese court began to make active preparations for the evacuation of their European dominions, and to secure to itself a last and a safe retreat to its South American possessions.

In furtherance of these views, the Prince Regent ordered all vessels of war that were in order sufficiently good to keep the sea, immediately to be fitted out, at the same time warning all the English in Portugal to make as quick a sale of their property as circumstances would admit of, and then immediately to quit his dominions, in order, should the worst ensue, to save them from the miseries of a long captivity, or, very probably, from a great effusion of blood.

Whilst he was thus providing for the safety and welfare of allies that he dared not own, yet wished to cherish, he resolved, if possible, to conciliate the Emperor of the French, and to obey his mandate, deeming it not to be impossible to soften him down so that he might a little moderate his pretensions. But all these attempts proved fruitless, for Buonaparte peremptorily insisted not only on the shutting up of the ports, but also on the imprisonment of British subjects wherever they could be found, the total confiscation of their property, and an immediate abandonment of the project of the royal family to remove themselves to America.

Seeing himself thus at the mercy of one who knew not how to be merciful to any who thwarted his vast projects, and firmly believing that all the English had not only sold their property, but removed the proceeds of it, and themselves from the kingdom, the Prince Regent at last determined to comply unlimitedly with the demands of France, at the same time making a solemn declaration that the moment the French troops should enter the confines of Portugal, that moment he would remove the seat of government to Brazil, which he considered to be beyond the reach of the grasping ambition of his oppressor.

But the harassed Prince Regent was soon made to feel that there were other parties who were to be conciliated besides the French, and that the toleration of the English court had its bounds. It had been frequently urged on the cabinet of Lisbon, by the English minister, Lord Strangford, that the King of Great Britain, in agreeing not to resent the exclusion of British commerce from the ports of Portugal, had gone to the utmost extent of political forbearance,—that, in making this concession to the peculiar circumstances of the Prince Regent's situation, his Majesty had done all that friendship could justly require; and that a single step beyond this modified hostility on the part of

the Prince, must necessarily lead, on the part of the King, to the extremity of actual war. Notwithstanding this English declaration, the Regent, in the fond hope of conciliating France, on the 8th of November signed an order for detaining the few British subjects, and the very inconsiderable portion of British property, that then remained in Lisbon.

On the promulgating of this order, Lord Strangford immediately removed the arms of England from the gates of his residence, sent in a final remonstrance, demanded his passports, and then proceeded, on the 17th of November, on board the British squadron commanded by our hero, who, at his lordship's suggestion, established a most rigorous blockade at the mouth of the Tagus.

In this predicament, the Prince Regent now found himself placed between two enemies—he had to make his choice on which to throw himself for protection; he, therefore, very wisely renewed his intercourse with Lord Strangford, who, on the 27th, after receiving assurances of protection and security, again proceeded to Lisbon.

It is a point of dispute, which perhaps will never be satisfactorily settled, whether our minister did or did not recommend the next step that the Prince Regent was induced to take.

The English government, of that time, was most willing to have all the credit of suggesting the measure, though to that credit they never openly made claim. Be this as it may, the Prince Regent had to decide immediately between the tender mercies of a French army, and the protection and liberality of the English squadron commanded by Sir Sidney Smith. No time was to be lost, for already had the Emperor's troops entered Portugal.

His decision in favour of the English was strengthened by Buonaparte having published, in his official journals, that "the house of Braganza had ceased to reign." He was the more confirmed in this, as Lord Strangford promised his royal highness, on the faith of his sovereign, that the British squadron before the Tagus, or a sufficiently strong portion of it, commanded by Sir Sidney Smith, should be employed to protect his retreat from Lisbon, and insure the safety of his voyage to the Brazils. Reassured by this, on the 28th of November he published a decree, by which he announced his intention of retiring to the city of Rio de Janiero until the conclusion of a general peace, and of appointing a regency for the administration of the government at Lisbon during his absence from Europe.

On the morning of the 29th, the Portuguese

fleet sailed from the Tagus, with the Prince of Brazil and the royal family of Braganza on board, accompanied by many of his faithful councillors and adherents, as well as by other persons attached to his present fortunes. This fleet consisted of eight sail of the line, four large frigates, several corvettes, brigs, and ships of war, besides twenty-five sail of merchantmen, forming in all a fleet of thirty-six sail. Whilst they passed through the British squadron, our ships fired each a salute of twenty-one guns, which was returned by an equal number.

The following is a description of the scene by a spectator.

"At seven, on this remarkable day, it was a beautiful morning: a fine breeze blew from the eastward, which wafted the Portuguese ships directly out of the Tagus. Signal was made for two sail, which shortly afterwards was repeated for three ships of the line, and we saw Portuguese colours. At nine, the signal was repeated for six sail, at ten for nine; and a telegraph from the Confiance announced, that the royal standard was flying on board one of the ships. Signals were repeated for several ships of a smaller class, which were composed of brigs, schooners, and merchant ships, together with the Lisbon packet.

"We had now the heartfelt satisfaction to see

that our hopes and expectations were realised to the fullest extent; the whole Portuguese fleet arranged itself under the protection of that of his Majesty, whilst firing a reciprocal salute of twenty-one guns, which announced the friendly meeting of those powers, who were but one day before on terms of hostility.

"To any heart but a Buonapartist's, the scene was sublimely beautiful; impressing every beholder, except the French army on the hills, with the most lively emotions of gratitude to Providence, that there yet existed a power in the world capable, as well as willing, to protect the oppressed. A more interesting spectacle than that afforded by the junction of the two fleets, has been rarely beheld.

"Lord Strangford, who had hitherto accompanied the Prince, now repaired to the Admiral on board the Hibernia, but returned immediately, accompanied by him, whom he presented to the Prince, and was received with the most marked and gracious condescension. His royal highness expressed every sentiment, that the most cordial feelings of gratitude to, and confidence in, his Majesty and the British nation, could be supposed to dictate. He informed the Admiral, that himself, his family, and fleet, came out to place themselves under the protection of his Britannic Majesty's ships, and that his inten-

tion was to proceed to Rio de Janeiro; trusting that part of the squadron would be allowed to convey him to the place of his destination.

"Sir Sidney answered his royal highness in the name of his king, that every assistance should be given; that the British nation were his *real friends*, and that the whole kingdom would have been distressed, had the French seized on his royal highness's person.

"The Portuguese men of war presented a wretched appearance, as they had only three days to prepare for their escape; scaffolds were still hanging by their sides, and in short, they rather resembled wrecks than vessels of war. Signal was now made from the commander-in-chief's ship, for the marines of the London to repair on board his Majesty's frigate Solebay."

The junction of the two so lately hostile fleets, under the peculiar circumstances, was imposing, and calculated to call up deep reflections, and some very painful as well as some gratulatory feelings. To those who contemplated the act only, this self-expatriation had all the appearance of a sublime sacrifice at the altar of patriotism. Of the motives we much doubt. We will not examine too closely into the matter in this place. England did her duty, and we shall not here argue whether the royal house of Braganza did

theirs to a nation that had so long respected and cherished it.

The British admiral ordered four English ships of the line to form an escort for this royal cortège, with orders to the commanding officer to see them in safety to Brazil. We are inclined to think this precaution needless, for we very much doubt whether a superior French force would have meddled with them at all.

Lord Strangford accompanied the Portuguese royal family a part of the way to their new destination, as appears by the following letters, sent by the secretary of state and first lord of the admiralty to the lord mayor.

"*Foreign Office, half-past two* P.M.
Dec. 19, 1807.

"My Lord,—I have the honour to acquaint your lordship that Lord Strangford, his Majesty's minister plenipotentiary to the court of Lisbon, has just arrived, having left the Portuguese fleet on the 5th instant, between Madeira and the Western Islands, under convoy of a British squadron, steering for the Brazils.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"GEORGE CANNING."

The other letter, from the Admiralty, is of the same date.

"My Lord,—I have great satisfaction in acquainting your lordship that Captain Yeo, of his Majesty's sloop Confiance, arrived this afternoon at this office, with despatches from Rear-Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, dated December 6th, stating that the Prince Regent, with the whole of the royal family, consisting of fifteen persons, had embarked for the Brazils on the 24th ult., with seven sail of the line, four frigates, three armed brigs, and upwards of thirty Brazilian merchant vessels.

"The Portuguese fleet is attended by his Majesty's ships Marlborough, London, Monarch, and Bedford, under the command of Captain Moore.

"Only one serviceable line-of-battle ship and three hulks remained in the Tagus. Eight Russian line-of-battle ships remained in the Tagus, only three of which were in condition for sea.

"Rear-Admiral Sir Sidney Smith has resumed the blockade of the port of Lisbon with five sail of the line, and will probably, by this time, have been joined by an additional line-of-battle ship.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"MULGRAVE.

"*J. Ansley, Mayor.*"

The following are the official despatches concerning these transactions :—

A Despatch this day received from Lord Viscount Strangford, his Majesty Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Lisbon, by the Right Honourable George Canning, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

"*His Majesty's Ship Hibernia, off the Tagus, November* 29, 1807.

"Sir,—I have the honour of announcing to you, that the Prince Regent of Portugal has effected the wise and magnanimous purpose of retiring from a kingdom which he could no longer retain, except as the vassal of France; and that his royal highness and family, accompanied by most of his ships of war, and by a multitude of his faithful subjects and adherents, have this day departed from Lisbon, and are now on their way to the Brazils, under the escort of a British fleet.

"This grand and memorable event is not to be attributed only to the sudden alarm excited by the appearance of a French army within the frontiers of Portugal: it has been the genuine result of the system of persevering confidence and moderation adopted by his Majesty towards

that country; for the ultimate success of which I had, in a manner, rendered myself responsible; and which, in obedience to your instructions, I had uniformly continued to support, even under appearances of the most discouraging nature.

"I had frequently and distinctly stated to the cabinet of Lisbon, that in agreeing not to resent the exclusion of British commerce from the ports of Portugal, his Majesty had exhausted the means of forbearance; that in making that concession to the peculiar circumstances of the Prince Regent's situation, his Majesty had done all that friendship and the remembrance of ancient alliance could justly require; but that a single step beyond the line of modified hostility, thus most reluctantly consented to, must necessarily lead to the extremity of actual war.

"The Prince Regent, however, suffered himself for a moment to forget that, in the present state of Europe, no country could be permitted to be an enemy to England with impunity, and that however much his Majesty might be disposed to make allowance for the deficiency of the means possessed by Portugal of resistance to the power of France, neither his own dignity, nor the interests of his people, would permit his Majesty to accept that excuse for a compliance with the full extent of her unprincipled demands. On the 8th

instant, his royal highness was induced to sign an order for the detention of the few British subjects, and of the inconsiderable portion of British property, which yet remained at Lisbon. On the publication of this order, I caused the arms of England to be removed from the gates of my residence, demanded my passports, presented a final remonstrance against the recent conduct of the court of Lisbon, and proceeded to the squadron commanded by Sir Sidney Smith, which arrived off the coast of Portugal some days after I had received my passports; and which I joined on the 17th instant.

"I immediately suggested to Sir Sidney Smith the expediency of establishing the most rigorous blockade at the mouth of the Tagus; and I had the high satisfaction of afterwards finding, that I had thus anticipated the intentions of his Majesty; your despatches (which I received by the messenger Sylvester on the 23rd) directing me to authorise that measure, in case the Portuguese government should pass the bounds which his Majesty had thought fit to set to his forbearance, and attempt to take any farther step injurious to the honour or interests of Great Britain.

"Those despatches were drawn up under the idea that I was still resident at Lisbon; and though I did not receive them until I had ac-

tually taken my departure from that court, still, upon a careful consideration of the tenor of your instructions, I thought that it would be right to act as if that case had not occurred. I resolved, therefore, to proceed forthwith to ascertain the effect produced by the blockade of Lisbon, and to propose to the Portuguese government, as the only condition upon which that blockade could cease, the alternative (stated by you) either of surrendering the fleet to his Majesty, or of immediately employing it to remove the Prince Regent and his family to the Brazils. I took upon myself this responsibility in renewing negociations after my public functions had actually ceased; convinced that although it was the fixed determination of his Majesty not to suffer the fleet of Portugal to fall into the possession of his enemies, still his Majesty's first object continued to be the application of that fleet to the original purpose of saving the royal family of Braganza from the tyranny of France.

"I accordingly requested an audience of the Prince Regent, together with due assurances of protection and security; and upon receiving his royal highness's answer, I proceeded to Lisbon, on the 27th, in his Majesty's ship Confiance, bearing a flag of truce. I had immediately most interesting communications with the court of

Lisbon, the particulars of which shall be more fully detailed in a future despatch. It suffices to mention in this place, that the Prince Regent wisely directed all his apprehensions to a French army, and all his hopes to an English fleet; that he received the most explicit assurances from me that his Majesty would generously overlook those acts of unwilling and momentary hostility to which his royal highness's consent had been extorted; and that I promised to his royal highness, on the faith of my sovereign, that the British squadron before the Tagus should be employed to protect his retreat from Lisbon, and his voyage to the Brazils.

"A decree was published yesterday, in which the Prince Regent announced his intention of retiring to the city of Rio Janeiro until the conclusion of a general peace, and of appointing a regency to transact the administration of government at Lisbon, during his royal highness's absence from Europe.

"This morning the Portuguese fleet left the Tagus. I had the honour to accompany the Prince in his passage over the Bar. The fleet consisted of eight sail of the line, four large frigates, several armed brigs, sloops, and corvettes, and a number of Brazil ships, amounting, I believe, to about thirty-six sail in all. They

passed through the British squadron, and his Majesty's ships fired a salute of twenty-one guns, which was returned with an equal number. A more interesting spectacle than that afforded by the junction of the two fleets has been rarely beheld.

'On quitting the Prince Regent's ship, I repaired on board the Hibernia, but returned immediately, accompanied by Sir Sidney Smith; whom I presented to the Prince, and who was received by his royal highness with the most marked attention.

"I have the honour to enclose lists of the ships of war which were known to have left Lisbon this morning, and which were in sight a few hours ago. There remain at Lisbon four ships of the line, and the same number of frigates, but only one of each sort is serviceable.

"I have thought it expedient to lose no time in communicating to his Majesty's government the important intelligence contained in this despatch. I have therefore to apologise for the hasty and imperfect manner in which it is written.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"STRANGFORD."

Despatches, of which the following are Extracts and Copies, were received at the Admiralty Office, on Saturday, Dec. 21, *by Captain Yeo of his Majesty's sloop the Confiance, from Rear-Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, addressed to the Hon. William Wellesley Pole.*

"*His Majesty's Ship Hibernia,* 22 *leagues west of the Tagus, Dec.* 1, 1807.

"Sir,—In a former despatch, dated the 22nd November, with a postscript of the 26th, I conveyed to you, for the information of my lords commissioners of the Admiralty, the proofs contained in various documents of the Portuguese government being so much influenced by terror of the French arms, as to have acquiesced to certain demands of France operating against Great Britain. The distribution of the Portuguese force was made wholly on the coast, while the land-side was left totally unguarded. British subjects of all descriptions were detained; and it therefore became necessary to inform the Portuguese government, that the case had arisen which required, in obedience to my instructions, that I should declare the Tagus in a state of blockade; and Lord Strangford agreeing with me that hostility should be met by hostility, the blockade was instituted, and the instructions we

had received were acted upon to their full extent. Still, however, bearing in recollection the first object adopted by his Majesty's government, of opening a refuge for the head of the Portuguese government, menaced as it was by the powerful arms and baneful influence of the enemy, I thought it my duty to adopt the means open to us, of endeavouring to induce the Prince Regent of Portugal to re-consider his decision 'to unite himself with the continent of Europe,' and to recollect that he had possessions on that of America, affording an ample balance for any sacrifice he might make here, and from which he would be cut off by the nature of the maritime warfare, the termination of which could not be dictated by the combination of the continental powers of Europe.

"In this view Lord Strangford having received an acquiescence to the proposition which had been made by us, for his lordship to land and confer with the Prince Regent under the guarantee of the flag of truce, I furnished his lordship with that conveyance and security, in order that he might give to the Prince that confidence which his word of honour as the King's minister plenipotentiary, united with that of a British admiral, could not fail to inspire towards inducing his royal highness to throw himself and

his fleet into the arms of Great Britain, in perfect reliance on the King's overlooking a forced act of apparent hostility against his flag and subjects, and establishing his royal highness's government in his ultra-marine possessions, as originally promised. I have now the heartfelt satisfaction of announcing to you, that our hopes and expectations have been realised to the utmost extent. On the morning of the 29th, the Portuguese fleet (as per list annexed) came out of the Tagus with his royal highness the Prince of Brazil and the whole of the royal family of Braganza on board, together with many of his faithful counsellors and adherents, as well as other persons attached to his present fortunes.

"This fleet of eight sail of the line, four frigates, two brigs, and one schooner, with a crowd of large armed merchant-ships, arranged itself under the protection of that of his Majesty, while the firing of a reciprocal salute of twenty-one guns announced the friendly meeting of those who but the day before were on terms of hostility; the scene impressing every beholder (except the French army on the hills) with the most lively emotions of gratitude to Providence, that there yet existed a power in the world able, as well as willing, to protect the oppressed.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"W. S. SMITH."

Eight ships of the line, four frigates, three brigs, and one armed schooner, came out of the Tagus with the royal family.

" His Majesty's ship Hibernia, twenty-two leagues west of the Tagus, Dec. 1, 1807.

" Sir,—In another despatch of this day's date, I have transmitted a list of the Portuguese fleet that came out of the Tagus on the 29th ultimo, which I received that day from the admiral commanding it, when I went on board the Principe Reale to pay my visit of respect and congratulation to his royal highness the Prince of Brazil, who was embarked in that ship. I here enclose the list of those left behind. The absence of but one of the four ships is regretted by the Portuguese, (the Vasco de Gama,) she being under repair; her guns having been employed to arm the Freitas, sixty-four, a new ship, and one of those which came out with the Prince. The other three were mere hulks; and there is also one ship on the stocks, the Principe Regent, but she is only in frame.

" The Prince said everything that the most cordial feelings of gratitude towards, and confidence in, his Majesty and the British nation, might be supposed to dictate.

" I have by signal (for we have no other mode

of communicating in this weather) directed Captain Moore in the Marlborough, with the London, Monarch, and Bedford, to stay by the body of the Portuguese fleet, and render it every assistance.

"I keep in the Hibernia close to the Prince's ship. I cannot as yet send the Foudroyant, Plantagenet, and Conqueror on to Admiral Purvis, according to their lordships' order of the 14th, which, I trust, will be the less felt as an inconvenience off Cadiz, as they appear to have been ordered thither with reference to the Russians being within the Straits, before it was known they were on my station.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"W. SIDNEY SMITH."

There remained at Lisbon four sail of the line and five frigates, all out of repair, and some of them quite past service.

"*Hibernia, at sea, lat.* 37. 47.; *long.* 14. 17.
Dec. 6, 1807.

"Sir,—I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, for the information of my lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that I succeeded in collecting the whole of the Portuguese fleet, ex-

cept a brig, after the gale, and that the weather was such as to allow the necessary repairs, and such distribution of supernumeraries and resources to be made, as to enable Vice-Admiral Don Manuel d'Acunha, sotto-mayor, to report to me yesterday all the ships capable of performing the voyage to Rio Janeiro, except one line-of-battle ship, which he requested might be conducted to an English port. I meant to escort her part of the way, but she did not quit the fleet with me last night as settled. I hope, however, she may arrive safe, as she is not in a bad state, being substituted for the Martino de Freitas, which was at first destined to go to England, in consequence of a fresh arrangement made yesterday, on the latter being found in the best state for the voyage of the two. I have detached Captain Moore in the Marlborough, with the London, Monarch, and Bedford, to attend the Portuguese fleet to the Brazils. I have thought it my duty, in addition to the usual order to take the above ships under his orders, to give Captain Moore one to hoist a broad pendant after passing Madeira, in order to give him greater weight and consequence in the performance of the important and unusually delicate duties I have confided to him. I feel the most perfect reliance in that officer's judgment, ability, and zeal.

"The Portuguese ships did not, after their reparation, want more provisions or slops from us than the list enclosed, which I supplied from this ship and the Conqueror.

"This despatch will be delivered by Captain Yeo of his Majesty's sloop Confiance, who has shown great address and zeal in opening the communications by flag of truce, which it was the interest of those in power, who were against the measure of emigration, to obstruct. Lord Strangford speaks of his conduct in terms of warm approbation; on this ground I beg leave to recommend him to their lordships, to whom his general merits as an officer are already well known. Having been in Lisbon without restraint during the intercourse, he is qualified to answer any questions their lordships may wish to put to him.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"W. SIDNEY SMITH."

We must remark, in this place, that glorious to our arms and gainful to our interests as this step of the Portuguese court seemed to be, it was precisely the very step that Buonaparte wished us to take. Nothing could have more completely forwarded his interests, or been more inimical to our own.

Much, very much, of turgid eloquence has been displayed, and many the attempts made upon our feelings to excite sentiments of admiration in our bosoms at the sublime and solemn spectacle of the Prince and most of the magnates of the land nobly expatriating themselves, rather than see the land of their fathers overrun by the invader and the oppressor. If the land had been so dear to them, the fugitives should have staid and consecrated their attachment to it by the enriching the soil with their blood. As they did not act heroically, they had no right to claim the reputation of heroes. They thought only of themselves, and sought only their personal safety in flight.

Had they staid and borne the brunt of Buonaparte's hostility, the event would have been doubtful, but their own honour secure. By flying, Portugal, for a time, became a province of France, and the South American colonies did *not* fall into the possession of England. That they would do so, was Bonaparte's greatest fear. The Portuguese dynasty was preserved, and England lost a most favourable opportunity of turning the channels of South American commerce towards our own shores exclusively. They must have fallen under our protection, had not the Portuguese family gone to them and encum-

bered them with an European court, and disgusted them by European prejudices.

That our minister acted most skilfully, no one who has marked the course of these events can, for a moment, doubt. The ends that a minister must seek in a foreign court to obtain are definite; he has but to work them out, whilst the initiative of all such important movements must proceed from those who direct the foreign policy at home.

We think that the family of Braganza should have staid in their capital until the very last moment, and then have retreated no farther than the friendly fleet that lay off it. The Peninsular war, so skilfully conducted, and so gloriously concluded, by the Duke of Wellington, might then have begun most auspiciously, and what was afterwards effected by sacrifices so great of blood and treasure, have been purchased with infinitely less loss, and the honour, the heroism, and the patriotism of the Regent of Portugal remained untarnished.

Had he staid by his subjects, who afterwards proved how capable they were of staying, to the death, by their country, how many factions would have never seen the light, how much French interest would have been prevented from distracting

and dividing the people; and with what energy would all the nation, in its integrity under their legitimate prince, have acted with their too generous allies, the English!

The retreat of the Braganza family did not prevent their country from being made the battle-field of nations, nor avert from it all the attendant miseries of foreign armies struggling upon the soil, and making waste the face of the country; but their remaining would, in all human probability, have made the war of much less duration, and the struggle less fatal to that unhappy and demoralized kingdom.

From the expelled, let us return to the authors of the expulsion. The Portuguese fleet had not fairly left the Tagus, when the French, with their Spanish auxiliaries, appeared on the hills above Lisbon, under the command of General Junot. Though the Portuguese had long been under the apprehension of a visit, they were surprised by their sudden arrival. The entrance of the French troops into Portugal was not known in Lisbon till their advanced guard had reached Abrantes. The greatest professions of friendship were made on the part of the French army for the people of Portugal. In defiance of all this, their country was treated as a conquered one;

severe laws and heavy contributions were imposed upon high and low, and the French system as to subdued countries put inexorably into force.

It was on the occasion of this invasion that the Marquis of Alorna returned the following laconic answer to the invading enemy, the commander of which asked for safe passage and supplies, wishing at the same time to know if he and his troops would be received as friends or enemies. "We are unable to entertain you as friends, or to resist you as enemies."

Sir Sidney Smith continued to blockade the coast, and, as usual with his enterprising mind, to cause great annoyance and vexation to the enemy, until the 15th of January, 1808, on which day he was superseded in his command of the squadron by Sir Charles Cotton.

While off Lisbon, Sir Sidney Smith was appointed, by the following document, to the chief command on the South American station.

"To Sir William Sidney Smith, Knight, Rear-Admiral of the Blue, hereby appointed Commander-in-Chief of a squadron of his Majesty's ships and vessels, to be employed on a particular service.

"Whereas we have thought fit to appoint you commander-in-chief of a squadron of his

Majesty's ships and vessels to be employed on a particular service; these are to will and enjoin you forthwith to take upon you the charge and command of the said ships and vessels as commander-in-chief; accordingly, hereby charging all captains, commanding officers, and companies, belonging to his Majesty's said ships and vessels, to be obedient to you, their commander-in-chief; and you, likewise, to follow such orders and directions as you shall, from time to time, receive from us, or from any other your superior officer, for his Majesty's service. For which this shall be your warrant. Given under our hands, and the seal of the office of Admiralty, 27th October, 1807, in the forty-eighth year of his Majesty's reign.

"MULGRAVE.
"R. BICKERTON.
"WM. JOHNSTONE HOPE.

"By command of their lordships,
"W. W. POLE."

On the 24th of the same month, Sir Sidney had the satisfaction of receiving despatches from the Admiralty, conveying their lordships' high approbation of his whole conduct in the management of the important and delicate service committed to his charge, and on the punctual and

successful execution of the various orders which he had received from time to time.

The light in which Sir Sidney Smith's services was viewed at home, in this momentous affair, is sufficiently evident from the subjoined copy of a letter from Mr. Secretary Pole.

"*Admiralty Office, Dec.* 28, 1807.

"Sir,—I lost no time in laying your despatches, brought by Captain Yeo, of H.M.S. Confiance, and by the Trafalgar letter of marque, before my lords commissioners of the Admiralty; and I am commanded by their lordships to express their high approbation of your judicious and able conduct in the management of the service entrusted to your charge, and in the execution of the various orders you have received from time to time.

"Their lordships are strongly impressed with the propriety of the whole of your conduct towards the royal family of Portugal; the respectful attention which you appear to have shown to the illustrious house of Braganza has been in strict conformity to their lordships' wishes, and they have desired me to express their complete satisfaction at the manner in which you have, in this as well as in every other respect, obeyed their instructions.

"My lords are pleased to approve of your having supplied the necessary succours to the Portuguese fleet from his Majesty's ships; and I am commanded to acquaint you, that, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, their lordships are satisfied of the necessity of your resuming, in person, the strict blockade of the Tagus, and they approve of your having detached from your squadron four sail of the line, under the command of Captain Moore, to escort the royal family of Portugal to Rio Janeiro.

"My lords concur in the propriety of your directing the officer in command of the squadron destined for this important service, to hoist a broad pendant after he had passed Madeira, and they approve of the instructions to Captain Moore, and of the selection you have made of that distinguished and judicious officer.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"W. W. POLE.

"*Rear-Admiral Sir Sidney Smith.*"

CHAPTER VII.

Sir Sidney Smith superseded by Sir Charles Cotton—Much misunderstanding as to what ships should be placed under Sir Sidney's command—Official correspondence.

Sir Charles Cotton arrived off Lisbon on the 15th of January, and superseding Sir Sidney Smith in his command, hoisted his flag in the Hibernia. Sir Sidney was thus obliged to shift his flag, and as Sir Charles Cotton vacated the Minotaur, Sir Sidney chose that ship in preference to turning the captain out of any other; not then knowing what kind of vessel the Minotaur was. However, he was not long in the dark as to her qualities, for two days after he had joined her, a gale of wind coming on, in the early part of the night, she lost her maintopmast, and great confusion prevailed on board. The gale lasted two days, the ship making a great deal of

water, and on the third day, the fleet being all separated, the Minotaur fell in with the Foudroyant, on board of which ship Sir Sidney Smith thought proper to shift his flag; in which change Sir Charles Cotton afterwards acquiesced, the Minotaur really not being fit for service.

When in this ship, the officers were a long while in expectation of being ordered somewhere, but whither was a matter of the wildest conjecture, the various reports being so contradictory. At length, orders arrived from England for Sir Sidney Smith to proceed to the Brazils, with liberty for him to choose any ship for his flag excepting the Foudroyant. Sir Charles Cotton recommended to him the Hercule, an old French prize, fitted out merely for the Copenhagen expedition, and the want of a poop rendered her particularly inconvenient for an admiral.

This ship our hero accepted, but requested that she might previously be surveyed before she proceeded to her destination across the Atlantic. This was done, and she was reported absolutely unfit for sea, and in proof of which a fragment of her timbers was exhibited, almost in a state as pulverised as snuff. This arrangement was thus, of course, broken off. It was then attempted to place Sir Sidney in the Agamemnon,

an old sixty-four; and as there was no other ship in the squadron fit for a flag, except the Conqueror, he applied for her, but as she was a very desirable ship, and commanded by the captain of the fleet's brother-in-law, every persuasion was used to make him take another. Added to this, she was then away for water, and it was studiously asserted that she would not be back for three months; but, on the very day that Sir Sidney had come to the resolution to go in any ship rather than lose time to the detriment of the service, the Conqueror joined company.

Private interest was then called into operation, and, rather than displace the then captain of the Conqueror, it was determined upon to infringe the Admiralty orders. The result of this was, that Sir Sidney Smith, in the Foudroyant, accompanied by the Agamemnon, arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th of February, and there refitted for his American voyage, having taken in a new foremast, and caulked the ship throughout. Sir Sidney sailed from Gibraltar on the 13th of March.

The truth of all this vacillation will be borne out by the following official documents. The first is from Sir Sidney Smith to Sir Charles Cotton, and runs thus:—

" *Minotaur, at Sea, Jan.* 24, 1808.

" Sir,—Having fallen in with the Confiance this morning, and finding Captain Yeo charged with a letter on his Majesty's service, addressed to you or to me, and learning from its contents that the Rochefort squadron is at sea, I lose no time in forwarding it to you, together with another from Sir John Duckworth, addressed to Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, which, being put into my hands by Captain Yeo, at the same time, I merely opened, under the idea that it was similarly addressed. I send it you in its present state, in order that you may inform yourself of its contents, if you think proper; but I have not presumed to proceed farther, considering your vicinity.

" The Minotaur having suffered in the gale, and being by no means an efficient ship in any respect, I meant, at any rate, to have requested your permission to shift my flag on board the Foudroyant; but, under the circumstances of the enemy being at sea, and the Russian fleet being supposed to be in readiness, and with the intention to come out, I think the honour of the flag requires that I should immediately do so, in order that I may be able to give you that support on this service, which it is as much my wish

as it is my duty to do. Under the hope that you will please to approve of this step, it is my request, further, that you will please to consider this as a permanent arrangement, as, under the present circumstances, as, indeed, under any, until the Minotaur has been put into repair, and in an efficient state, she is the last ship in the squadron on board which I should choose to have my flag.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your most obedient,
"humble Servant,
"W. SIDNEY SMITH.

"*To Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart.*"

To which Sir Sidney received the following answer:—

"*Hibernia, off the Tagus, 15th Feb.* 1808.

"Sir,—I am to acquaint you that the lords commissioners of the Admiralty have, by Mr. Secretary Pole's letter of 25th ult., directed me to put any two line-of-battle ships under my orders, with the exception of the Foudroyant and the Confiance, under your command, in order to augment the squadron of his Majesty's ships which have been detached to accompany the Prince Regent, and of which you are to take

upon yourself the chief command; and, in consequence thereof, I propose, as soon as the Elizabeth, Plantagenet, and Conqueror, join the squadron, to recommend your hoisting your flag on board her Majesty's ship Hercule, then with the Agamemnon and Confiance, to proceed to Brazil in execution of the service for which I presume you have received your orders.

"I further intend, from the very low state of the water in the squadron, to take as much from the Hercule as can possibly be spared, aware that you must touch at some place to complete, in your passage to Brazil.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"CHARLES COTTON."

Sir Sidney, on the same day, stating his objections to the above arrangement, forwarded to Sir Charles the following letter.

(*Secret.*)

"*H.M.S. Fondroyant*, 15*th Feb.* 1808.

"Sir,—In obedience to orders from my lords commissioners of the Admiralty, dated 25th ult., of which I enclose a copy for your information, I am to proceed to Rio Janeiro as commander-in-chief of the squadron stationed on the coast of Brazil, under the authority of their lordships'

commission, bearing date the 27th of October last, in my possession, taking with me two ships of the line, which, I am informed by their lordships, you have been directed to place under my orders, to the end that the squadron, of which I was, and am again, appointed commander-in-chief, may amount to the number of six sail of the line stated by Mr. Canning, as originally assembled and placed under my command.

"I have, therefore, to request you will be pleased to enable me to proceed, and signify when I may part company with you.

"I beg leave to state to you, as I shall to the lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that I consider the honour of the British flag to require that it should be enabled to meet that of a French flag-officer in a ship of equal force; and, under the circumstances of a French squadron having passed these latitudes to the southward, which may possibly be bound to Brazil, the commanding officer of which was in a three-decker, I trust I may not be deemed unreasonable in expressing my earnest desire that I may be enabled, sooner or later, to meet him on equal terms; meanwhile, as long as I may be in a two-decked ship, I am quite satisfied with the rate and qualities of the Foudroyant, and feel confident, from what I have observed of the abili-

ties and conduct of the officers and men, that I shall be able to do my duty in her to the extent of her powers, as a good eighty gun ship.

"I have to request you will bear in recollection, in making the arrangement which depends on you for the completion of the squadron under my orders, that Commodore Moore may possibly have withdrawn from the Brazil in the Marlborough, or have sent home some other ship, in pursuance to the authorisation to that effect contained in my order to him of the 5th of December; also, that the Solebay, at best a very inefficient ship, with a sprung foremast, and many men sent to England in prizes, will be soon on her way home; so that, of the three frigates destined, in my original order, to be under my command, with three smaller vessels, I shall not have one to cope with the frigates of the enemy, or to keep a proper look-out to cover a coast of thirty-three degrees of latitude, from the river Amazon to the southern limit, in the neutral ground between Brazil and the Spanish settlements; and farther, to keep a look-out on any armaments that may be equipped in the latter for the annoyance of our infant trade; for which purpose it will not be advisable to detach the line-of-battle ships, lest an enemy's force from Europe should suddenly make its appear-

ance in those seas, which is to be expected, if it is not already therein.

"I am satisfied with the Confiance as one of the smaller ships, and under her present commander she will, no doubt, act against a frigate to the utmost of her powers, but not to advantage. The Viper and Pitt will, I trust, now follow their destination.

(Signed) "W. S. S., &c."

The same day Sir Charles Cotton sent Sir Sidney the following answer:—

"Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, enclosing a copy of your order to proceed to Rio Janeiro, which, the moment the ships join that were mentioned to you in my letter of this morning, I shall feel as happy in enabling you to put in execution, as I shall to meet your wishes in any way the arrangement left in my power enables me to do; but the directions respecting the Foudroyant are positive and pointed, as you may observe by the two letters herewith transmitted for your perusal.

"The Elizabeth and Conqueror, commanded by the two senior captains in the squadron, whom I cannot think of dispossessing of their com-

mands, are absolutely essential, and but sufficient, to enable me to cope with the enemy, which you, as well as myself, know to be in the Tagus, and who, there is good reason to suppose, may shortly be on the move from thence. The Ruby's crew, being unfortunately affected by the small-pox, leaves only the Agamemnon to be spared, while the Hercule, (recently fitted foreign,) being next in point of quality to the two senior captains' ships, will, I trust, appear effective to convey your flag to Brazil, and where, I hope, agreeably to your desire, a three-decked ship may speedily follow for its reception.

"With respect to the smaller vessels, you will observe, by the enclosure, the great want of such craft for this station. The Viper I always intended for you, if detached; and although no orders to that effect have been received by me, she shall accompany you.

"The Pitt is most likely at Gibraltar, but about such vessel I have received no particular directions, nor was she under my orders, otherwise than as a transport of the convoy. You will therefore, in the event of proceeding to Gibraltar, and falling in with her, use your own discretion.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,"

&c. &c.

The reader may gain some insight, by this correspondence, into the eagerness with which commanding officers are prone to keep all the force they can to themselves, and the heedlessness with which the authorities at home sometimes dispose of ships that are not disposable. Sir Sidney Smith tells Sir Charles Cotton that he fears to be met, in his transit across the Atlantic, by a superior force, and well beaten; and produces his orders to be supplied with a competent force to maintain the dignity of the flag; and, in reply, Sir Charles offers him the worst ships of his fleet, telling him, when he gets to Brazil, he trusts a competent force will be sent after him, (when the danger is over;) and he produces his orders also for the justification of his conduct.

On the 20th of February, Sir Sidney received the following letter from Sir Charles:—

"Sir,—The Conqueror having yesterday, as you may perceive, lost an anchor and two cables, and being now far to leeward, the time she may again join the squadron quite uncertain, I cannot think (after the several urgent representations you have made to me, stating the great importance your speedy appearance in Brazil may be of to his Majesty's service and government)

of longer detaining you; and as no other ship in this squadron appears so well, or indeed at all, calculated for a foreign voyage as the Foudroyant, you have my permission to part company in such ship, taking with you the Agamemnon, whose captain is ordered to put himself under your command, and proceed, agreeably to the orders you have received from the lords commissioners of the Admiralty.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"CHARLES COTTON."

Thus Sir Sidney gained one portion of the object for which he contended; but this success was saddled with the Agamemnon, a very incompetent sixty-four, and, from her force, hardly admissible into the line-of-battle. Sir Sidney thus speaks on the subject:—

"*H.M.S. Foudroyant, off the Tagus, 20th February*, 1808.

"Sir,—I have been much gratified by your decision, communicated to me by your letter of this day's date, giving me leave to part company in a ship so well calculated for foreign service as the Foudroyant, which I am persuaded will be more advantageous to the King's service than my going in a ship of less force at a later period, an

sidering the new circumstances known to us here, and the necessity of my speedy arrival, after the delay that has taken place since the signification of the first arrangement.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"W. SIDNEY SMITH."

How very much Sir Sidney's wishes were disregarded at home, and how much he was bandied about, may be inferred from another private letter from Sir Charles Cotton, in which he tells Sir Sidney that he does not wonder at his preferring the Foudroyant to the Minotaur, as the latter ship "had certainly some good qualities, but she was hurried out of dock at Chatham without having justice done to her." Yet he hoped Sir Sidney would still take her, in the belief that it would have excited some zeal in the officers and crew to show themselves worthy of such a distinction. A pleasant reason, truly, which, if acted upon, should have induced Sir Sidney to embark himself in the most inferior and badly officered and manned ship in the navy.

Yet, with these gentle recommendations, he adds, in order the more pointedly to contrast the reality with the just expectation, that in his last conversation with Lord Gambier, his lordship had positively said, that "the Victory was Sir

Sidney Smith's, and was to come out to him, with his own officers and men, from the Pompée."

We have seen how our hero was served with respect to his favourite ship and cherished crew.

It is most certain that Sir Charles Cotton was anxious to meet Sir Sidney's wishes, for in another private letter he tells him, "As to the Foudroyant, I wish it was in my power to indulge you, for which I have every disposition that friendship and the high estimation in which I hold you can dictate. If left to the original order I had respecting your flag-ship, there could not be a doubt; but the repetition of their lordships' order is too strong a push to parry."

We see, however, that the push was parried, and in the Foudroyant Sir Sidney went to the Brazils, "good-humouredly thanking his stars for a double escape from drowning in the rickety Minotaur, or the rotten Hercule."

CHAPTER VIII.

Sir Sidney Smith arrives at Rio Janeiro—Gives a grand entertainment to the royal family of Portugal—The speeches and proclamation.

On the 13th of March, as before stated, Sir Sidney Smith, with his rear-admiral's flag flying on board of the Foudroyant of eighty guns, he proceeded to South America, on which station he assumed the chief command.

On May 17th, Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, in his flag-ship, accompanied by the Agamemnon, Captain Jonas Rose, arrived at Rio Janeiro. The admiral was received by all the officers with the greatest joy; his royal highness the Prince Regent particularly expressed the satisfaction he felt on the admiral's joining him.

On May 24th, orders came on board the

London from the commander-in-chief, to employ every artificer in the fleet to prepare that ship for the reception of the royal family, who had been invited by him to dine on board, on the 4th of June, in commemoration of his Britannic Majesty's birthday; and which invitation they had condescendingly accepted. Accordingly, all the guns from the middle deck and upper cabin, as also from the quarter-deck, were removed. The cabins were decorated with the English, Portuguese, and Spanish colours, and with a picture containing the likenesses of all our naval heroes; and, in honour of the royal visiters, the deck was covered with French flags.

The royal table was placed in front of the upper cabin, and tables for the reception of the nobles attending the royal family were set the full length of each side the quarter-deck. A platform was raised from the main to the foremast, the railing of which was ornamented with English, Portuguese, and Spanish colours. In the centre, a table was placed with one hundred and sixty covers; the awnings, the full length of the ship, were lined with English and Portuguese ensigns united, the borders of which were festooned with different coloured signal flags; the sides of the ship on the quarter-deck were covered

with the royal standards of England, in the front of which were his Britannic Majesty's arms over the royal table. On the poop was raised a marquee, for the reception of the attendants of the illustrious visiters; and no pains were spared to render the appearance of the ship most nautically magnificent.

On the 4th of June, the standard of England, in conjunction with that of Spain, was hoisted. At two o'clock, the Regent and his family embarked, under a royal salute from the ships and batteries; and upon his highness's arrival on board, the standard of Portugal was hoisted at the fore, when they were received with sincere demonstrations of heartfelt respect. His highness remarked, that the decks were covered with the colours of the French nation. The admiral answered in the affirmative, and the Prince replied, that he was indebted to his faithful ally and his brave subjects, who enabled him to trample them under his feet; a reply which feelingly evinced his grateful sentiments for British friendship.

At four o'clock the royal family placed themselves at table, the admiral superintending, until commanded by his highness to sit at the table, which was placed at his right hand, with Mr. Hill, the British *chargé d'affaires*, the nobility taking

their places according to their rank; and the royal family were attended by British naval officers.

In front of the table was placed the memorable standard which the Prince had flying on board the Principe Real, when he was compelled to quit his native country; the arms of Portugal and Spain were suspended over the royal guests, and when the English and Portuguese officers were seated, nothing could exceed the happiness his highness and family manifested, and the whole of their misfortunes seemed to have been forgotten.

On this festive occasion, various appropriate toasts were given, which the reader may, perhaps, not be displeased to peruse, as they serve to convey, more accurately than description could effect, the grateful sentiments of the royal visiters. His highness the Prince Regent, the Princess of Brazil, and the Princesses, severally gave—

"The King of Great Britain, and may he live till time shall be no more!"

The Infante of Spain gave—"Prosperity to the British, who are fighting for my family's cause."

The Infanta gave—"May our father and his family ever retain the esteem of all his British Majesty's officers."

These were returned with royal salutes. At sunset, his royal highness requested that the royal standard, which had been flying on board the London, might be brought before him. This request being complied with, his highness commanded that the standard should be laid on the deck, and then addressed the admiral in the following impressive manner:

"Admiral, the honour that you and the British officers have this day conferred on me and my family is more than we ever expected, when so short a period has elapsed, and I had the gloomy prospect before me of being surrounded by my enemies; to prevent which, and procure my neutrality, I was constrained to shut my ports against the British nation, with a hope that it would satisfy the exorbitant demands of the French Emperor; yet my compliance did not secure my country from being invaded.

"Such extremity was, to my mind, a source of the most poignant sorrow—that I should be forced to break off an alliance which had so long subsisted between my mother's court and that of his Britannic Majesty; but the snares of Buonaparte compelled me, as his perfidious conduct gave me reason to suppose, in the event of my refusal, he would invade my mother's kingdom. On the part of Great Britain I had not anything

to fear, the honour of that nation being unquestionable.

"Admiral, your advices, which I received by despatch, gave me information that Portugal had, in part, been taken possession of by the French. Such intelligence convinced me I was betrayed.

"But to you, admiral, I and my family owe our liberty, and my mother her crown and dignity. We are this day come on board the London to celebrate his British Majesty's birthday; and on this joyful occasion my royal standard has had the honour to fly in conjunction with that of England. It now lies on the deck; and permit me to return you and the officers thanks for all the services you and they have conferred on me, my family, and my faithful subjects.

"As a mark of my respect, accept this standard from me; and from henceforth, quarter the arms of my house with those of your own: it will remain as a memorial for your posterity, that your exertions preserved us from falling into the snare which Buonaparte had laid for our destruction."

This address was honoured with a salute from all his Majesty's ships. It was most truly affecting to see the princesses, the princes, and the

Infante of Spain, while his royal highness was addressing the admiral; and, although the entertainment was the most magnificent that was ever given on board any of his Majesty's ships, yet when a sovereign addressed the British admiral in such terms of respect, it was sufficient to cause a retrospective sigh to be heaved at the calamities his highness and his family had been compelled to undergo, and the loss of their ancient hereditary dominions. But the admiral revived their cheerfulness, by recommending the British officers to drink "Prosperity to his royal highness and his dominions;" which was most graciously received by the royal visiters.

At eight in the evening, these illustrious personages left the ship, and invited the admiral, captains, and officers, to attend them to the opera; which had been previously commanded on the occasion, in honour of the day, boxes having been provided for their reception.

An address, by way of prelude to the opera, was delivered on the occasion; of which the following translation will, it is hoped, be found to exhibit a tolerably accurate idea.

"This day has been a joyful one: our sovereign has cordially united in celebrating the birthday of George the Third, the sovereign of the British Isles—the father of his people, and the protector of the house of Braganza! May

his flag always continue triumphantly to sway over the heads of his enemies! The laws of Britain are just, their sovereign governs with justice and humanity. All ranks of oppressed men address him, whose views are just, and are sure to obtain relief; and those whose designs are base and dishonourable, his arms can scourge, and cause them to dread the name of a Briton. Don John, Prince Regent, enjoys his liberty, which he owes to the arms of England. May it never be disturbed by any power of the universe! May the two sovereigns and their posterity live in peace and friendship, until time shall be no more! And may the ill-acquired power of the usurper meet a rapid fall, and the united powers avenge their countries' wrongs.

"Unhappy Spain! thou hast been deceived. Thy country has been robbed of its sovereign, and that sovereign and his family have been dragged from their faithful subjects, and doomed to ignominious imprisonment; for what end the Omnipotent can only decide.

"Don Carlos, Prince of Spain, should ever Providence restore you to your country, and place you on the throne of your ancestors, remember the protection of Britain: her amicable connexions will ensure your country's happiness; your commerce will flourish, your arms by land and sea will regain their original power,

and the brave Spaniards will then remember their ancient dignity.

" Illustrious princess,* descended from a long line of Spanish sovereigns, and you the descendants of the royal house of Braganza, may your offspring ever learn to venerate the royal house of Brunswick!

" And now, on the evening of the 4th of June, a day of joy, a day of grateful respect, as our royal master and family have honoured us with their illustrious presence, may our performances afford to their august audience equal pleasure, and be crowned with success, like the British flag, which has hitherto protected and preserved our royal master!"

It might very reasonably be supposed that Sir Sidney Smith would have been most acceptable to the court of Brazils, in the elevated office which he went to fill, not only for the protection of British interests, but for the safety and even for the existence of the transplanted Portuguese dynasty. When, afterwards, Lord Strangford arrived, who had co-operated with Sir Sidney Smith in rescuing the Braganza family from the thraldom of France, it soon became evident that, with the Brazilians, British interests would now be sedulously studied, and British influence become paramount.

* The consort of the Prince Regent.

In the first instance, owing to the well-directed exertions of Lord Strangford, regulations very favourable to British interests were adopted in our commercial relations with the Brazilians. Indeed, these were looked upon as giving so much advantage to England and the commercial and shipping interests of the United Kingdom, that the committee of merchants trading to the Brazils forwarded, officially, to Sir Sidney Smith their most grateful thanks, for so well carrying out, by the assistance of the naval force under his command, those beneficial arrangements with Brazil that his lordship had completed, in the "Treaty of Commerce and Navigation" which he negociated and signed.

After a long-protracted silence, the court of Portugal put forth its justificatory manifesto, on its passing over to the Brazils. This delay is not to be imputed as matter of blame to the Prince Regent, since the manifesto could not be promulgated without the previous concurrence of his ally, the King of Great Britain. It begins by stating abhorrence of the French revolution, and reprobates the domineering deportment adopted by France towards states less powerful than itself. It then cites many grievances—the confiscation of Portuguese shipping in 1801, with many other unjust measures.

Afterwards, it proceeds to animadvert on the

conduct of Buonaparte at the breaking out of the war between England and France, when Portugal thought itself fortunate by purchasing, with great sacrifices of money, the treaty of 1804, wherein France promised by the sixth article a neutrality thus:—"The first consul of the French republic consents to recognise the neutrality of Portugal during the present war, and he promises not to oppose any of the measures which may be adopted with regard to any of the belligerent nations, not at variance with the principles or general laws of neutrality." Notwithstanding this, France made Portugal declare war against England, without the Portuguese having the least complaint to make against the latter power. The protest enumerates the alternations of aggressions and humiliations that it received, until the royal family were compelled to sail for the Brazils; and concludes thus—"His royal highness breaks off all communication with France, recals his mission collectively and individually, and authorises his subjects to make war by land and by sea upon those of the Emperor of the French.

"His royal highness declares all the treaties that the French emperor has forced him to conclude, and especially those of Badajoz and Madrid, in 1801, and of neutrality, in 1804, which the said emperor has infringed and never respected, to be null and void.

" His royal highness will never lay down his arms, but in conjunction with his ancient and faithful ally, his Britannic Majesty; and, in any case, will not consent to the cession of Portugal, which forms the ancient part of the heritage and rights of his august royal family.

"" When the Emperor of the French shall have satisfied the just claims of his royal highness the Prince Regent of Portugal on all these points, shall have abandoned the absolute and imperious tone with which he rules oppressed Europe, and shall have restored to the crown of Portugal all he has despoiled her of by an unprovoked invasion in the midst of peace, his royal highness will be ready to renew the ties that have always subsisted between the two countries, when not divided by principles of unlimited ambition, which the experience of ages has but too clearly shown to be alike contrary to the welfare and the tranquillity of those by whom such principles are adopted."

We have thus much insisted upon Brazilian affairs, because it has been generally supposed that Sir Sidney Smith, in conjunction with Lord Strangford, had great influence in determining the conduct of the expatriated court. If this be the case, the above document, though vilely drawn up, and in despicable taste, betrayed something like a proper spirit under the wrongs and

insults that were heaped upon those from whom it emanated.

This manifesto was followed up by a demonstration of actual hostilities against the allies of Napoleon. An expedition against Cayenne was proposed to the Brazilian court by Sir Sidney Smith, and consisted of about seven thousand Portuguese, supported by a detachment from the British fleet under the command of Sir James Yeo, and proved completely successful. At the time of the Vienna negociations, in 1814, this conquest turned out to be a very important acquisition. As commander-in-chief of the British forces employed at Cayenne, Sir Sidney Smith subsequently advanced his just claims upon the restored Bourbons, especially for having rescued from Buonaparte the celebrated plantation called "La Gabrielle," which was the private property of the French royal family. These claims are, we believe, to this very day, still unsettled.

It has been also published, that, notwithstanding the active and judicious exertions of Lord Strangford, British interests seemed gradually to decline at the court of the Brazils; and that though the Prince Regent continued to express himself as happy and grateful in the protection of England, his conduct towards her was both petulant and unthankful; that even the

just weight that ought to have been attached to the personal and public character of Sir Sidney Smith seemed to have been disregarded, and insult and annoyance to have superseded respect and accommodation in the conduct of the Brazilian authorities towards him. We give this a most strenuous denial; for, so far from this being the case, there was not a single case of just complaint, which, on application through Lord Strangford or the rear-admiral, was not promptly and amply redressed, nor a single just demand which was not successfully maintained. There certainly were sundry absurd and unreasonable pretensions (not on the part of British merchants alone) which our minister could not, with any degree of propriety, sanction or sustain; and hence, perhaps, arose the unfounded impression to which we have alluded.

Much stress has been laid upon the following symptom of jealousy manifested by the Brazilian court. His Majesty's ship London, in going out on a cruise, owing to a sudden flaw of wind, was obliged instantly to drop her anchor under one of the forts. In this predicament, her boats were observed to be taking soundings, as it is customary, and was then absolutely necessary.

This act was made the subject of a formal complaint to Sir Sidney Smith, and represented, with much bitterness, to be a breach of hospitality,

and a violation of the respect due to the house of Braganza. To this representation the rear-admiral coolly answered, that the duty of the ships under his command must be carried on according to the rules of the service in all parts of the world; and as to the asserted impropriety of surveying the coast, (supposing such survey actually to have taken place,) as he was charged with the responsibility of defending it, it was only just and reasonable that he and his officers should take every opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with it. This is the answer heroical, and one which must be pleasing to naval vanity; but let us look to both sides of the question.

We have given the English version of this transaction, but it should be remembered, that this sounding was not an isolated case, for the boats of the squadron had made themselves acquainted with every depth of water of every part of the harbour, and about the fortifications. It could hardly be expected that any government, claiming to be independent, could submit to such an infraction of its territorial rights by any foreigners. Were a French or Russian squadron enjoying our hospitality at Plymouth or Portsmouth, we should be somewhat astonished should they commence taking soundings, without even the previous civility of asking our permission.

CHAPTER IX.

Sir Sidney's interference with politics—Espouses the interests of the Spanish Princess—The memorial of the Princess of Portugal and Brazil, and of Don Carlos, the Infante of Spain—Marks of favour shown to Sir Sidney Smith.

NAPOLEON having placed his brother upon the throne of Spain, and thus made one more step towards planting his own dynasty as the sole sovereigns of Europe, this proceeding very naturally aroused the members of the old legitimate royal families into active but fruitless exertion. Spanish and Portuguese princes had nothing but manifestoes and declarations to oppose to Gallic victories, and at the instigation and by the advice of Sir Sidney Smith, to these they had recourse.

But still, the British admiral, commanding in the southern seas of America, thought he had an imperative duty to perform in endeavouring to preserve the allegiance of the Spanish colonies to the

expelled family of Spain; and, with that view, he was extremely successful in distributing the declarations and manifestoes to which we have just adverted. Whether, in so doing, he was performing a work of supererogation, it is not easy to decide. That he had been over zealous was more than rumoured—it was publicly affirmed. The apparent course of duty is not always the one that the secret councils of the cabinet will approve of. Whether Sir Sidney Smith's zeal was judiciously manifested we know not—we know it was, to some parties, most vexatiously.

Intimately connected as was our officer with all the political movements in the quarter of the world in which he exercised his command, it becomes our province to state that the Princess of Brazil, and her cousin, the Spanish Infante who followed the court of Portugal, published joint and separate protests against the usurpation of Napoleon's family, which usurpation was in prejudice of their rights as possible heirs to the crown of Spain. Even supposing that the Buonaparte dynasty should prove stable, they deemed this step advisable to secure to themselves the succession of those parts of the Spanish monarchy which were beyond the reach of the French imperial power. This document is headed by the

words " Just claim," and is addressed by " The representatives of the royal house of Spain, Donna Carlotta Juaquina de Bourbon, Princess of Portugal and Brazil, and by Don Pedro Carlos de Bourbon y Braganza, Infante of Spain, to the Prince Regent of Portugal, to the end that his royal highness may vouchsafe to take into consideration to protect and preserve the sacred rights of their august house to the throne of Spain and the Indies, which throne the emperor of the French has obtained by means of an abdication and renunciation, extorted by the most atrocious and detestable violence, from the hands of the King Don Carlos IV., and their royal highnesses the Prince of Asturias and the Infantes Don Carlos and Don Antonio."

The memorial then gives a brief history of how Buonaparte contrived to get possession of the meek King of Spain, characterising the *coup de politique* with every epithet that tends to give it the colour of treachery and perfidiousness. It then " implores the aid of the Prince Regent of the Brazils as their guardian and natural protector, supplicating his succour against the propagating of this usurping system that absorbs the states of Europe one after the other, beseeching his royal highness to employ his power and influence in favour of their house, so that they

may be thereby enabled (as the nearest relations of the king) to preserve his rights, and with them, to secure their own; combining the Portuguese, Spanish, and English forces, to hinder the French from practising, with their armies, the same violence and subversion that they have committed almost over the whole extent of Europe.

It then tells his royal highness, that "in consideration of the state and situation in which their father and uncle, together with the rest of the family of the august house of Spain, are placed, his royal highness cannot but approve of this their present proceeding, founded on the principles and the fundamental laws of the Spanish monarchy, from which they will never separate themselves; a proceeding authorised by the irresistible principles of divine and natural justice, and which, as such, we hope will merit the approbation of their beloved uncle, the King of the Two Sicilies, that of his royal family, and of all personages interested. They consider the step that they are taking as expected of them by the members of their unfortunate family who are in a state of restraint, oppressed by force, and that they surely feel most painfully the separation from the bosoms of their much loved vassals,

the faithful, the constant, and the generous Spaniards."

The memorial then adverts to the words employed by the ex-king of Spain when he abdicated, and thus comments upon them: "This mode of expression appears to us to offer evident proofs, first, of the compulsion that has been exercised to make those princes write, without allowing them to write their own sentiments; secondly, that, in case Spain was not placed in such circumstances as are therein described, they would not deem useless an effort of the inhabitants to recover their rights; and thirdly, that, when this should follow with respect to the colonies, they would be lost to the mother country. In these words we perceive a tacit though very clear insinuation, addressed to ourselves, and to such of our most faithful countrymen as are still at liberty, that we should, by unanimous consent, endeavour to defend and preserve our rights."

The memorialists then appeal to the King of Sicily, and to the sovereign pontiff, intimating that their cause is that of the church and of religion.

It then proceeds, "As for us, we deem ourselves happy in being on this side of the Atlantic,

neither in a state of subjection, nor liable to it; if, laying aside all party spirit, we cultivate that perfect union and alliance whereby community of sentiment will consolidate those resources that are capable of forming a respectable force sufficient in itself to resist whatsoever invasion, and to secure our interests, our liberties, and our lives against French ambition.

" We cannot, for a single instant, doubt of the loyalty and love that the inhabitants of the Americas have at all times shown towards our august house, and more particularly to our much honoured father; for whom, *in recent times, they have sacrificed their lives* and their fortunes, and given the greatest proofs of fidelity. With this knowledge, and certain that the misfortunes of our family will have saddened the minds of those who have always interested themselves for the conservation of our rights, we hope that, by the means of the interference and help of your royal highness, it may be practicable to realise a perfect alliance with the King of Spain's subjects in America; and, by that just and salutary measure, frustrate the enemy with ease, as well as avoid those rival dissensions which continue too frequently to be excited between the subjects of the two kingdoms, of which the consequences are always more or less fatal,

"In order to realise these our just and sound intentions, we are desirous of a secure opportunity for communicating them to the respective tribunals, and other legitimate depositaries of the authority of our Lord the King, which we would in no wise alter or diminish, and which can be preserved and defended only by freeing it from the power of France. To which end, we hope that your royal highness will interest yourself with the admiral of our strong and powerful ally, the King of Great Britain, that he may so order and dispose of the forces under his command, as, without weakening the defence of your royal highness, and of the Brazilian coasts, to contribute to that of the shores of the river Plata, and the other dominions of Spanish America; without in any way prejudicing the navigation and commerce between the inhabitants of those parts and this and other parts of this principality, the protection for which trade, we doubt not, will be immediately confirmed by the generosity of the King of Great Britain's noble character, and that of his powerful nation.

"Lastly, we request of your royal highness to place at our disposal all the means that may be necessary for us to communicate our intentions to the chiefs, tribunals, and civil as well as ecclesiastical authorities, in which dwells the authority

of our Lord the King, and to whose loyalty we commend the rights of our royal house, which we desire to support inviolate during the continuance of those misfortunes with which French ambition has afflicted the royal family of Spain.

"Written in the Palace of Rio de Janeiro, 1st August, 1808."

(Signed) &c.

He must be grave indeed, who, casting the eye of deliberate reasoning upon this document, forbears to smile—and yet, the next sentiment must be of a much sadder cast. This crying out of the frogs to king Log for protection against king Stork is ludicrous, but the invitation to civil war throughout the Spanish colonies is a miserable instance of arrogant and selfish ambition. The young colonists were, however, all this time taking counsel among themselves, and the spirit of Freedom presided at their deliberations.

These princes' reliance on the "love and loyalty" of a people who were on the eve of casting off the supremacy of the mother country for ever, betrays a weakness, excessive even in those advantaged by the "divine right" doctrine. They appear not to have been able to discern anything beyond the precincts of their own little court, or if they ventured a glance a little more

extended, it was only with the eye of the most inveterate prejudice. Their appeal to the Americans was wholly too late, for their coveted subjects were thinking of federal, while the princes were thinking of feudal, system.

However, the Regent of Portugal gave the memorialists a very favourable answer; for, among other gracious things, he acquaints them and the world, that he judged, like them, that the time was come for union against the common enemy. He says, "I hope that, in concert with my allies, (amongst whom ought to be comprised Sicily, and so consider itself,) we shall be able to oppose a barrier to the extension of those conquests France may undertake against us. At least, I will do all that shall depend upon me to effectuate this salutary combination and alliance which your royal highnesses have proposed to me. And I wish the American Spaniards, knowing that we are of one accord on the great necessity of protecting them, to unite their resources with our forces, in order to give full and entire effect to my intentions for procuring them that peace and prosperity of which their position renders them capable and susceptible of the fullest enjoyment."

It took eighteen days to concoct this magnanimous answer, virtually transferring the alle-

giance of all Spaniards, and American Spaniards more particularly, from the *de facto* King of Spain, to Joaquina, Infanta of Spain and Portugal.

Now, it is fully understood, that the appeal made in the first document to Sir Sidney Smith, for the co-operation of the naval force under his command, entirely met the gallant commander's views, for the best of all reasons, that they originated with himself. In the aspect of affairs at that period, these movements, though they now seem feeble and puerile enough, were thought of great moment, though they were certainly *not* in accordance with British policy at the time. Indeed, nothing could have been more fatal to the relations of England as regarded Spain, where, by this time it had been discovered that the battle *was* to be fought, and *has* been decided. It was then our interest to cultivate the confidence of the Spanish provisional government, acting in the name of Ferdinand VII. These proceedings in South America, authorised, as they were erroneously supposed to be, by the British government, excited suspicion and alarm; and, for a long time, it was difficult to persuade the Spanish authorities at Cadiz that we were not acting a double part, and that, while we affected to support the rights of Ferdinand VII. in Europe, we

were not secretly intriguing to transfer their colonies in America to their old natural enemies, the Portuguese. But Sir Sidney Smith had neither the authority nor sufficient force to attempt anything of consequence in their favour, in the quarter of the globe in which he found himself.

Indeed, from the different views in politics entertained by Sir Sidney Smith and the ministry at home, his command was about to be abruptly terminated, but not before he had done his country essential service, and, though no important military exploit distinguished his presence in the Brazils, in many instances, himself great honour.

Not only had he made the commerce of his country a paramount object, but his advice and assistance were found most beneficial in the employment of British capital, in developing the resources of the rich country confided to his protection. But as the subject is foreign to our purpose, we can only just allude to it.

That, during his stay in this country, Sir Sidney Smith was personally very acceptable to the Prince Regent, is evidenced by that august personage presenting him with a very pleasant villa on the banks of the river, with a good deal of land attached to it. To this residence Sir Sidney gave the name of Chacara de Braganza.

CHAPTER X.

Sir Sidney Smith's strong advocacy of the Infanta's interests —It displeases at home—Honours conferred upon him — Is recalled and superseded—Conjectures upon this step of the British government—Sir Sidney receives the address of the British merchants—His reply.

ALMOST from the very beginning of Sir Sidney Smith's command, the court of the Brazils had split into two distinct parties,—that of the Prince, and that of the Princess. Sir Sidney was considered to be the leader of the latter, the chief political object of which was to place the Princess at the head of an independent government, (under the name and representing the authority of her brother, Ferdinand VII.,) to be established in the provinces of La Plata.

This project was discountenanced by the British government, and was also very distasteful to the Prince of Brazil, and, consequently, Sir Sidney's position at the court ceased to be so agreeable to him as might have been expected

from all that previously occurred before our hero became mixed up with politics.

Previously to that time, the sovereign bestowed every public mark of honour and approbation upon our officer that was possible in their relative situations. The project of reviving the ancient order of the Tower and the Sword had been sometime suggested to the Prince by Don Rodrigo de Souza, his minister for foreign affairs. This order was originally instituted by Alphonso V., surnamed the African, in 1459.

This revival was not carried finally into execution until the 17th of December, 1808, the anniversary of the Queen of Portugal's birthday, on which occasion a great number of British naval officers had the order conferred upon them, whilst the admiral himself was made a Knight Grand Cross.

In unison with the promise made to Sir Sidney by the Prince Regent, on board the London, on the 4th of June, 1808, he solicited permission to quarter the arms of Portugal with his own, and the prince graciously met his views by ordering his minister to forward the following document to England.

"*Palace of Rio Janeiro*, 6 *Aug.* 1808.

"His royal highness the Prince Regent, our

sovereign lord, very desirous to show the estimation in which he holds the merit, abilities, and valour of Sir Sidney Smith, rear-admiral and commander-in-chief of his Britannic Majesty's naval forces in the southern seas; his royal highness has been pleased to grant him the honour of enabling him to bear the arms of Portugal quartered with his own, and to bear them, as the French express it, on *shield and banner*;* that he and his descendants may use them, and in default of issue, his representatives in both the male and female lines; but as the said Sir Sidney Smith cannot do this without his Britannic Majesty's license, his royal highness orders that your excellency will request this faculty through Mr. Canning, his minister of state for foreign affairs, signifying the great pleasure and satisfaction his royal highness will receive by his Britannic Majesty's being pleased to accede to this his particular desire. Your excellency will make known this minister's answer as soon as possible. His royal highness flatters himself that this just request will not meet any difficulty.

"God preserve your excellency.

"D. RODRIGO DE SOUZA COUTINHO.

"*To Don Domingos Antonio de Souza Coutinho, London.*"

* En écusson et bannière

These honours fully evince how high had been the esteem of the Regent for Sir Sidney's great worth as a commander, and that he could not afterwards have borne him a great degree of pique as an adverse partisan. The political dissensions of the time have long since been forgotten, obliterated as they are by the events of a nature so surprising that followed. The honour bestowed on Sir Sidney remains.

Whilst at Rio de Janeiro, Sir Sidney could boast, with a few exceptions from political motives, of the friendship of every man who had the slightest pretensions to come within his extensive circle of acquaintance, for from the high station which he held, his boundless hospitality, as well as from his courtesy, kindness, and agreeable manners, he had, to use a very common yet expressive term, "won all hearts."

Though generally at anchor in his flag-ship at Rio, the naval commander-in-chief sometimes proceeded in the Foudroyant to the different places within the limits of his jurisdiction, which partook greatly the character of naval pageants; for, as he could find no enemies to overcome, he had nothing to do but to create new friends, to conciliate the inhabitants, and to implant the feelings of love and respect for the country that he so honourably and so profitably served.

Every one, excepting those in the political secret, was surprised at the recal of our hero from these seas; but it cannot be expected that any ministry would, or ought to, keep an officer in a *high* command, when he has publicly testified that he has essentially different political views from those of his government.

We wish this remark to be understood generally; but in Sir Sidney's case the application of the ministerial rule had other accessory circumstances to help it out, and in some manner to justify it. It is most true, that in all Sir Sidney's actions nothing ever appeared but magnanimity, probity, and the most chivalrous courage. He served his country at the Brazils with advantage, and was, on his return to his native shores, as we shall hereafter show, received with accumulated honours.

But still Sir Sidney Smith was removed from his command before the usual period; and such removal alone, until fully and satisfactorily explained, will always carry with it something like a slur upon the character of the displaced officer We believe the step was never explained, and we can only offer a conjecture upon the subject, and which we should hesitate to offer at all, did we not think that the probabilities are very strongly in its favour.

It is well understood that Sir Sidney Smith was as conscious of his diplomatic astuteness as of his high naval and military talents, and we must not be surprised if he felt a little disinclination to allow them to remain unexercised in a field so wide and so tempting as was then afforded him by the Brazilian court, which contained, at the same time, so many members of the expatriated families of Spain and Portugal.

On the subject of these families, and especially the claims of the Spanish portion of it, as we have before mentioned, Sir Sidney took his own peculiar views; and would also, if he had been permitted, have taken measures which would very much have embarrassed the cabinet at home. In these he was opposed by the British minister, Lord Strangford, at Rio de Janeiro, who was content to act solely upon the instructions that he had received from Mr. Canning, the secretary of state at the time.

This opposition of his lordship was solely on public grounds, for, privately and personally, no two persons could have been in a more friendly position; each respected the talents and the character of the other; and had their political views been in unison, they could not, as individuals, have been upon better terms.

Of this we may be assured, that Mr. Canning

was not the person to permit any one to retain a command, who might feel inclined to thwart his policy, or even to disapprove of it. Sir Sidney believed that his course of acting was best suited to the interests of his country, whilst some of those in power at home deemed that out of his own peculiar province he should not act at all; and, to prevent him from so doing, he was superseded in his command. We mention this with a great deal of diffidence, for acts which partake so much of the nature of opinions assume different names according to the views taken of them by different parties. However, Sir Sidney Smith's proceedings became, towards the end of 1808, the subject of a confidential letter to George III. from the Prince Regent, which letter, most probably, led to the recal of Sir Sidney Smith, and to the appointment of another officer to succeed him.

In all this, we see nothing in the least discreditable to our hero, as a zealous officer and a gallant man. His political views might have been the correct ones; he was too manly to disguise them; and he thus placed himself voluntarily in a position, in which it was impossible for him to retain his command.

On the 7th of August, 1809, Sir William Sidney Smith, having left the Brazils in the Diana

frigate on the 21st of June, once more arrived on his native shores, and shortly after struck his flag.

Whatever might have been the opinion of the ministers as to the value and extent of our officer's exertions to promote the honour and the interests of his country, the merchants of great Britain more immediately concerned with our South American commerce, on the arrival of Sir Sidney Smith, were eager to testify their respect to him personally, and the high sense that they entertained of his activity and intelligence officially. They presented him with the following address—a spontaneous tribute highly honourable to all parties.

"The committee of merchants of London trading to, and who have establishments at Brazil, beg leave to congratulate Sir William Sidney Smith on his safe arrival in England from his command on the coast of that country.

"Impressed with a lively sense of the essential services rendered by him to the commercial and shipping interests of the United Kingdom in general, and more particularly to those immediately concerned in the Brazil trade, of the protection that he has always so eminently and uniformly afforded them, and of the judgment with which his conduct has always been

regulated, upon all occasions in which the interests of his correspondents and connexions have required his interference; the committee consider it to be their duty to return Sir Sidney their most grateful thanks, which they request him to accept, accompanied by their warmest wishes for his health and prosperity.'

This spontaneous tribute of respect to our officer produced from him the following very appropriate reply:—

"*Royal Hotel, Pall Mall,*
Sept. 4, 1809.

"Sir,—Mr. Buckle, secretary to the committee of British merchants trading to the Brazils, having this day put into my hands your letter, containing an extract of the proceedings of that respectable body, of the 17th ult., together with the very flattering proof of my earnest endeavours to promote the commercial interests of our country having been favourably considered by them, I lose no time in requesting you to convey to them my best thanks for this distinguished mark of their approbation.

"I assure you and them, that nothing could be more gratifying to me than the unanimous address from so respectable a body of my coun-

trymen, to whose service, in general, my whole attention and care have ever been, and ever will be, devoted.

"A sense of duty induced me to labour for the extension and security of the commerce of my country. All other modes of securing it being denied me by the circumstances of my situation, my first care was to cement the friendship of our allies, the Portuguese; my next, to extinguish the enmity of our opponents in the Spanish part of that vast continent, and to show the latter, that the enlightened views of the British government and nations in Europe, with regard to Spain, entitle us to the confidence of her colonies, with which I succeeded in opening, and have since maintained, a degree of amicable intercourse that cannot fail to cement the bonds of friendship, and augment the resources of both states towards enabling them to bear the expenses of the war, on the success of which depends their safety, and even their existence.

"If, in pursuing these great objects, I have collaterally been enabled to further the interests of the British trade in general, I am sincerely rejoiced; and the proof that you have kindly given me of my endeavours having been crowned with success, is (next to the approbation of those to whom I am responsible, and which, I am

happy to find, is not to be denied me,) the most gratifying circumstance that could occur, and amply balances the painful struggles I have sometimes had against prejudice and egotism.

"I beg leave, sir, to thank you for the very obliging manner in which you have conveyed this most flattering and unexpected address. I cannot, however, in accepting it, omit to acknowledge the labours and merits of his Majesty's consul-general, Sir James Gambier, with whom I acted most cordially in all things, when the interests of the merchants trading to the Brazils were concerned.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"Your most obedient,

"humble servant,

(Signed) "W. SIDNEY SMITH.

"*To J. Princep, Esq., Chairman of the Society of British Merchants trading to the Brazils.*"

But he was not, during this cessation of naval service, idle; for, on the 11th of October of the same year in which he arrived in England from his Brazilian command, he married the widow of Sir George Berriman Rumboldt, Bart., formerly British consul at Hamburgh. This Sir George Rumboldt had drawn the public attention very

much towards him, on account of a most unjustifiable persecution that he endured from the arbitrary proceedings of the satellites of the French emperor. Indeed, at one time, his life was in imminent danger. He left a family with his widow, who have found in Sir Sidney Smith all the affection and care of a father.

Though, at this time, our fleets were actively employed in keeping the enemy blockaded in their various harbours, from private political motives Sir Sidney Smith was not again employed until the summer of 1812.

On the 31st of July, 1810, Sir Sidney Smith was promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral.

Among other honours, which seemed to have no end in their multiplying, Sir Sidney Smith had, about this time, the distinction conferred upon him, at Oxford, of Doctor of Civil Law. He was not alone in this honour, for he shared it with Isaac George Manly, Esq., rear-admiral of the Blue, and Captain Thomas Fremantle, of the royal navy. These academic honours were bestowed upon these celebrated officers at the Oxonian Encænia, and the applause at the ceremony was universal and enthusiastic, particularly so with respect to our hero.

The *grace* for Sir Sidney Smith's degree passed the senate of the university in the year

1805, during the vice-chancellorship of the Reverend Doctor Whittington London, provost of Worcester College, as a tribute of respect to the "Christian Knight," whose merit had already served for a theme to a bard of whom Oxford is justly proud.

The degree that was thus proposed for the admiral during his absence, only awaited his return from foreign service to receive the *placets* of the convocation. This honorary distinction is really *honourable*, and, from Sir Sidney Smith's high cultivation of mind, not at all misplaced; for, although he gained his qualification in sterner fields than any of those that are proximate to the groves of Oxford, they are not the less sterling and exalted, and the degree is every way appropriate to the character which bears it.

On this occasion, a very valuable contemporary periodical is facetious, though not very original, in the following remark: "Now that Sir Sidney Smith is made a doctor of civil law, we hope that he will not abandon the practice of the cannon law, in which he has hitherto been so eminent."

CHAPTER XI

Sir Sidney's popularity—He visits Liverpool—His reception—His eulogists—An account of his nautical inventions.

In every place of any populousness, in which Sir Sidney Smith showed himself, he was always received with enthusiasm. We make the following extract from the "Pilot," respecting his reception at Liverpool.

"This town is at present (September 12th, 1810) favoured with the company of Admiral Sir Sidney Smith. This distinguished officer, whose exploits have procured him the admiration and attachment of the whole nation, passed through Manchester on Saturday. He was there waited upon by a deputation of gentlemen, and invited to a public dinner at the Exchange, on which occasion the principal inhabitants of that

town were present. When he arrived at Warrington, the horses were taken from his carriage, and he was drawn through the streets amidst the congratulations of a vast concourse of people. Sir Sidney arrived at Liverpool on Monday evening, and yesterday morning waited upon the mayor and stewards, and afterwards, accompanied by several gentlemen, inspected the Town Hall, the Athenæum, the Lyceum, the Rotundo, and the Union Rooms. After this, he returned to the Exchange, where he was met by the body of merchants there assembled, and hailed by repeated cheers.

"Upon entering the Exchange room, he was again most heartily saluted by incessant cheers, and he received the same compliment at the underwriters' room. On the following Saturday he dined in public with the mayor in the Town Hall. With these tokens of respect every heart beats in unison. They call forth our warmest congratulations."

After which, the gifted editor proceeds to perpetrate some fine writing on the subject, to the effect that "the laurel which decks the brow of the patriotic warrior is ever green; it is not blasted by envy, nor corroded by time; but it becomes a more pleasing decoration when joined with the festive wreath entwined by the hands of

a grateful country.' It was the lot of many ancient heroes that their merits were left only for posterity to appreciate; but it may be the boast of the heroes of England, that, whilst they erect a name and an example for future years, yet living they are honoured with the honest applause and the warm feelings of their fellow-citizens."

This would have been most pleasant to our hero, and all others of our nation, if true; but another contemporary writer thinks very differently as to the laurel and the ever-green wreaths, with other more substantial advantages, that ought to have been bestowed upon the defender of Acre. In a letter to Sir Sidney Smith, on his installation as a doctor of civil laws at Oxford, this writer tells him—"So great, indeed, so characteristically great have been your achievements, that we must, in charity, suppose our different administrations, under which they have been performed, despairing adequately to estimate them, have withheld the rewards which lesser merits might be understood to claim;" and have received, he might have very truthfully added. The writer, warming with his subject, thus proceeds:

"Your country, sir, has long beheld with mingled emotions of shame, anger, and indigna-

tion, the affronting neglect with which the brilliant character of Sir Sidney Smith has been insulted; but the same country has, at length, in a plenitude of opportunity, bestowed upon you the proudest reward which any age or any nation could by popularity have bestowed. History, indeed, quietly at her post, was collecting for her brightest pages the materials for your fame; but it was in the theatre of Oxford, sir, that the splendid and living attestation of your merit burst upon us."

That is to say, that his country, "in a plenitude of opportunity," withheld from him a peerage or a baronetcy, and gave him the proudest reward that any nation could possibly bestow, by making him, "a man-of-war's man, a doctor of civil law."

After this, the writer makes Cæsar, Rome, and the dagger of Brutus, dance in mazy confusion around the couch of Socrates, and finishes with the sententious Franklin sighing with sensibility, as, at his bidding, the electric spark descends from the atmosphere—to show that none of these were equal in celebrity to the act of making Sir Sidney a doctor.

The writer, then, very naturally diverges to commendations of the university and all thereunto belonging, and tells Sir Sidney, that before

her venerable chiefs he was crowned with "immortal honours."

"Yes," he continues, "at that hour, your numerous escapes and hardships; your daring snatches at fame, amid the waves of the Baltic; your eruption from the prisons of France; your resourceful defence of Acre; your genius as a statesman in your projected recovery of Egypt by treaty; your assistance along its streams, and upon the plains of the Delta, in its actual recovery; your protecting of the house of Braganza in its escape from perpetual enthralment;—all these bright deeds, and all these severe exertions, were at once *compensated* and rewarded by this deputation from our empire, *not more mighty in force than in intellect.*"

But awful as was this display on the part of the university, it would have wanted its climax, had it not been for the death of Mr. Windham. His eulogy follows, and Horace and Sir William Draper are enlisted among those forming the funeral pageant. Indeed, so taken up is the author with his *peroration*, that Sir Sidney has only the distinction to be lugged into it in the very last words, styling him the defender of Ptolemais, where he is ranked with Nelson, Montrose, Wellesley, Cœur de Lion, and Wallace.

We have only noticed this effusion as an in-

stance of the very general spirit of admiration which the character of Sir Sidney Smith at this time excited. We have but to remark, that he fully deserved all that is sensible in these eulogiums, and much better eulogists.

In the month of August, the Lord Provost and magistrates of the city of Edinburgh unanimously voted the freedom of the city of Edinburgh to our officer; and on the 22nd he dined with them, the council, and clergy, and a number of gentlemen, in the new rooms, Royal Exchange. On the following day, he and other strangers, accompanied by several gentlemen belonging to the city, visited Heriot's Hospital.

The grandeur of the building, the excellent management of the institution, exemplified by the clean and healthy appearance of the boys, attracted, in a particular manner, the attention of the admiral, as well as of the other visitants. After witnessing the embarkation of the forty-second regiment at Leith, Sir Sidney returned to Edinburgh, and in the afternoon dined with the Lord Provost, at his seat, View Forth, in company with a select party.

In this year more honours were showered upon Sir Sidney Smith, and the knight of Palestine was received with acclamations worthy of his glory among the learned fraternity of Cambridge.

In addition to the academical distinction conferred upon him at Oxford, he was now vested with the degree of Master of Arts, the highest that the statutes of Cambridge university admit of, *honoris causâ*, amidst universal acclamation. In his Latin harangue on the occasion, the public orator introduced, most happily, the name of the conqueror of the conqueror of Europe. The admiral's appearance in the senate-house, on the recent installation of the Duke of Gloucester as chancellor, was the signal for a general salute. The whole ceremony was as gratifying to him who was its object, as it was honourable to those with whom it originated.

At this time his popularity seemed, if possible, on the increase, for it enabled the very indifferent poem of Mrs. Cowley, called "The Siege of Acre," to appear in a new and greatly amplified edition. This poem, its editor tells us, "was written after Buonaparte had abandoned his army and returned to France, but before the English army had beaten it in Egypt; at a time, therefore, when the military event of the expedition of the highest import was, "The Defence and Siege of Acre." The author's object was, whilst the threats of invasion were revived, to assist in teaching Britons—before the proofs which they have given under Sir John

Stuart at Maida, and repeatedly under Lord Wellington in Portugal and Spain—had dissipated the "dastard doubt," which had existed in the minds of a few, whether Englishmen, on shore, could keep their accustomed lead of the enemy,—that they could, notwithstanding his improved state, conquer those whom others cannot resist.

We may take this opportunity of our officer's cessation from naval employment to introduce to our readers

SIR SIDNEY SMITH'S INVENTION.

It has generally been remarked, that, in men of extraordinary genius, the inventive faculties have always been well developed. The mind that conceived, and the patience that executed, "Paradise Lost," had it turned its energies to mechanism, would, perhaps, have anticipated the use of steam, or made progress towards the discovery of the longitude by the means of improved chronometers. Indeed, invention may be characterised as a ready appliance by the mind of the resources within its reach, and the power of doing that circuitously that cannot be directly done. In the defence of Acre, Sir Sidney evinced a great degree of this tact, so distinguishing to the possessor, and so valuable to mankind. Need

we then be surprised that, at the time when the nation, or a great part of it, trembled under the threat of an invasion, the preparations of which were so gigantic that fear was not reprehensible in the calmest temperaments, Sir Sidney Smith turned his attention to the means of conveying aid rapidly from one destination to another. To effect this, much to the amusement of the suburban and waterside residents of the metropolis, he treated them with the following nautical exhibition.

It was a construction adapted to convey large bodies of troops, in shallow water, without noise or confusion, under the enemy's batteries.

The model of this vessel was very completely put together, and the first experiment made with it was on the 23rd of August, 1805. About ten o'clock, ante meridian, for we must now speak nautically, Sir Sidney Smith, a naval lieutenant, and six men, independently of four others who were stationed at the oars, got on board the vessel, proceeded up to Chelsea, and from thence sailed down to Greenwich.

The form of this raft resembled two wherries placed alongside each other, but separated by means of a platform twenty-four feet wide and twenty-four feet long, to which the wherries were

attached. Eight sprit-sails were used to impel the construction through the water. These sails were so cut as to be capable of forming a complete tent, under which the regulating officer and men were to be stationed.

Everybody must be aware that this contrivance is very ingenious, and would tell admirably, as to effect, upon a smooth river. We think that, in some few cases of rare occurrence at sea, it might be rendered serviceable, but it certainly would not live through a surf—would be snapped asunder in a short sea, and be rolled under water, tents and stationed men and officer, in a long one.

But this essay must only be looked upon as a rudiment of something more complete, and which, we doubt not, would have been effected, had not Sir Sidney's attentions been called to loftier and more weighty matters. Most heartily do we wish that some of our rear-admirals and post-captains would, in these piping times of peace, thus usefully employ their time — for in one thing they would be certain of success — the amusement of the citizens of London.

And, shortly after, his teeming mind did produce something much more effective, and calculated for a wider sphere of operations. It was in the construction of vessels to form a flotilla, and the

practicability of his invention was first essayed on the 2nd of September, 1805.

It was altogether a sort of military triumph. He arrived at Dovor from Ramsgate in the Diligence revenue cutter, under a salute of six guns. He landed in a pilot wherry, and was received on shore by a discharge of three more guns. Accompanied by several naval officers, he retired for the night to the York Hotel.

The next day, at a very early hour, the two gunboats, newly constructed under his directions, were brought from their moorings to the mouth of the harbour for his inspection, and for the purpose of making some further improvements in them.

They were much on the same plan as the united wherries we have just described that were tried on the river, but differing in a few particulars, and on a scale much more extensive. One of the boats was called the Cancer, the other the Gemini. The Cancer was formed of a galley, forty-eight feet in length, cut exactly in two, from stem to stern. Those two parts were joined to the ends of four pieces of timber, which crossed them, and were made secure by braces of iron. Upon these four beams a platform was raised, in the centre of which was placed a three-pounder, ready mounted,

with ammunition boxes, and all the necessary apparatus for the gun's service. The wheels of the light piece of ordnance stood in a groove, upon a sort of framework, which ran out some feet beyond the bows, so that, the moment the vessel was run ashore, the cannon could be landed and be instantly put in use.

In the centre of each of the two extreme beams which joined the two half galleys, masts were stepped, each of which carried a large square sail with proper rigging, and a foresail also projected from the beam which was fixed to the frame. There were four rudders, one to each extremity of the half galleys, two only of which to be worked at a time, by a cord connected with a larger one in the centre, and managed by a person on the platform. These four rudders could be shipped and unshipped in a moment, and the half galleys being equally sharp at both ends, the construction could progress, with the same facility, either backwards or forwards.

The half galleys were decked, with eight holes cut along each, large enough to admit a man's body. To the mouth of each hole was fixed a canvass bag, so as to prevent the water penetrating, and with a running string at the top. In these bags the sixteen men who pulled at the oars seated themselves, and tied them on tightly above their

hips, which sufficiently lashed them to the body, and also prevented them from being washed overboard.

Besides these sixteen persons at the oars, and the other sailors who managed the sails, this vessel was capable of holding fifty soldiers; her sides were entirely lined with cork, so that it was impossible to upset her, and the heavy seas passed over her, doing no other injury than wetting that part of the men which was not encased in the painted canvass bags.

The other boat, the Gemini, was of a nearly similar construction, but much larger, and with this difference: she was formed of two entire galleys, fastened together, as was the Cancer, with sixteen holes in each galley, for the rowers were inside in the other; the sixteen outside men pulled with oars, whilst those in the middle were furnished with a sort of spade, in the shape of the paddle of an Indian canoe, the blade of which was made of iron, a place being left between the platform and the galleys to work these paddles. The paddles might also be used in clearing away the sand, mud, or gravel, and thus facilitate the landing of the cannon.

The Gemini carried a six-pounder, and a proportionate number of men more than the Cancer. Those vessels, when laden at the

heaviest, drew only eighteen inches of water, so that they could be made most useful in running into shallow places, and landing guns with expedition.

At one o'clock, Sir Sidney Smith, accompanied by Major Chubley, of the East York militia, and some naval and military officers, went on board the Cancer, whilst the rest of his party embarked in the Gemini; and it being then flood-tide, and the wind at north-north-east, they proceeded out of the harbour, steering a south-west course.

Both the piers were crowded with company to witness this interesting spectacle. In short, all the fashionables of the town, as well as most of the population, had assembled to behold our hero; whilst the oldest of the inhabitants, who prided themselves in fancying Dovor to be his native place, hailed him as the ornament and honour of their town. Many of these remembered him as a little boy; and he recognised his old friends, as he passed among them, with that kindness and affection that proved he deserved their love and approbation.

These vessels were attended by a ten-oared galley and the Diligence cutter. Having stood for some miles out to sea, they tacked and went before the wind. Here one of the greatest per-

fections of these boats was displayed. They ran before the wind with the greatest rapidity, outstripping even the cutter and galley, which were the swiftest sailing vessels then belonging to the harbour.

Whilst Sir Sidney was directing these movements, the Utilité frigate, of thirty-eight guns, belonging to the Boulogne squadron, passed under full sail from the Downs for that station, and when she came abreast of the harbour, fired a gun for her pilot. Soon after, the Desperate gunbrig hove in sight, from the Downs. This vessel was ordered to attend upon Sir Sidney, having on board twenty privates of the royal artillery, sent from Ramsgate to work the guns on board the newly-invented boats.

All this, with the addition of a most beautiful day, and a distinct view of the French coast, made the *coup d'œil* enchanting. After trying these boats in every way in which they could possibly be managed, through the whole of which they appeared to work with great ease and convenience, the artillery from the Desperate was put on board them, and several shots were fired in different directions, without having any visible effect upon the vessels. They were then brought into the roads, and ran on shore on that part of the strand where the brigade usually parade,

near to the cottage then occupied by Sir Sidney Smith's aunt.

The cannon were landed in a moment, with the greatest ease, and several shots being fired by way of experiment, they were again, in the shortest space of time, shipped with the greatest facility; and whilst Sir Sidney and his party retired to regale themselves on shore, the boats were brought again out of the harbour to their original moorings.

It was rumoured that Admiral Lord Keith was to have been of this experimentalizing party, but, for some reasons that have never transpired, he did not attend.

We think that the same objections apply to this larger, as we thought were applicable to the smaller experiments. It answered beautifully in fine weather, and on smooth water.

The invention was a combination of the double Indian canoe of the southern seas, the Laplander's small seal-skin constructed coracle, and the modern lifeboat, with the addition of the negro's paddle. It was a most clever contrivance, but much too elaborate ever to have come into general use.

CHAPTER XII.

Sir Sidney Smith made a vice-admiral—Proceeds to the Mediterranean—The nature of the service described—The amusements of the fleet—The reading-room on board the Hibernia.

As we have before stated, Sir Sidney Smith was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral on the 31st of July, 1810, but he did not hoist his flag at the fore until the summer of 1812, when he was appointed the second in command in the Mediterranean, under Sir Edward Pellew, afterwards Lord Exmouth. He proceeded to his station in the Tremendous seventy-four, and, on arriving off Toulon, he shifted his flag to the Hibernia, a first-rate, where it remained until the close of the war.

This service had but little in it that was captivating to so ardent and zealous an officer as Sir Sidney. The blockading of the French fleet in Toulon in the fine months of the year, and lying in the excellent harbour of Port Mahon in the tempestuous ones, were the usual alternations of

employment, now and then varied by a skirmish with the blockaded force, and a storm of more or less fury.

Sir Sidney Smith, with his flag flying on board the Hibernia, led the lee-line, and for wearying months together nothing further took place than stretching off the port and harbour of Toulon at the approach of night, in order to stretch in next morning.

Sometimes, when the coast became a lee-shore to the British fleet, Sir Edward Pellew was obliged to haul off, and then the French fleet would seize the opportunity of stealing out of their harbour, in order to train the seamen to the different nautical evolutions—a discipline of which they stood much in need. Having their port, with its formidable batteries, directly under the lee to run into, they used, on these occasions, to play very ostentatious pranks; clapping on all sail as if in pursuit of their enemies, making signals with a rapidity quite imposing, and from time to time firing innocuous broadsides over the seas that they claimed as their own, but on which they dared not remain, though always in greater force than the enemy of whom they stood so much in awe. This was all very well and very pleasant, so long as the wind remained dead on the Toulon shore, but sometimes it would sud-

denly change, and then the eagerness with which they made for their port was perfectly amusing.

But the English had always an in-shore squadron, that, hugging the western shore, were sometimes enabled to intercept them in their retreat, or at least, by firing upon them, throw them into confusion, and thus retard their recovery of their port.

In the midst of this, up would come, heavily plunging through the water, every stitch of canvass crowded upon them, first one and then another, and then two or three together of the largest and finest three-deckers from the English fleet, in the world. They would arrive in the fray without order, or any losing of time in forming the line. But, unfortunately, when they could get within range, they were generally in the very centre of the outer harbour, and all but surrounded with batteries; and in this situation, fighting, almost literally, under a canopy of shell and shot, they would pour in their farewell broadsides upon the retreating Frenchmen, who, when huddled up in the inner harbour, would immediately set about writing self-satisfactory despatches—procure *Te Deums* to be sung for their signal success—whilst the shops of the town would teem with caricatures of the English, in which their own navy was held up for admiration

and the public gratitude for having baffled the enemy, by safely getting away from an inferior force.

There is no exaggeration in all this. We ourselves have read the French despatches, and seen the French caricatures concerning these futile skirmishes that were so provoking to the British tars, because their foes would not permit them to be anything else.

It would be ridiculous to enter more into detail on these trifling encounters, in which Sir Sidney's high talents and great professional skill could not, by any possibility, be brought into action.

When lying in the harbour of Mahon, during the severe gales of the winter months, the Hibernia was the focus of all that was hospitable and social. The mania of the day consisted in theatrical exhibitions, and, we believe we are strictly in truth when we say that they were patronised, and, as far as liberality of purse was concerned, mainly assisted by Sir Sidney.

These performances took place in a dismantled church at Mahon, and what was formerly the altar now became the stage and proscenium of the theatre. The wings of the church, that had once been appropriated as chapels to the saints, were metamorphosed into saloons, where very excel-

lent segars and very bad grog were sold by ladies who were more liberal in their moral notions than in their mercantile dealings. The Spaniards of the Balearic Islands are very good and orthodox Catholics; yet they never objected to all this, but generally made the greater part of the audience.

Acts of parliament not being in force in Mahon, money was openly taken at the doors for admission to this theatre, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of luxuries and indulgences for the sick of the fleet, and to the assistance of the poor of the town. The characters were filled, of course, by the junior officers of the navy; if they performed them well, it was well— if ill, still better, for the amusement, because the more exhilarating.

On board of the Hibernia, also, we have witnessed histrionic performances, which, though they were not so effective as those exhibited in the deserted church in the town, might well compete in excellence with the efforts of any company of strolling players that were ever great in a barn.

But Sir Sidney took means less questionable for the amusement and improvement of the future captains and admirals of the British fleet. In order to encourage habits of study, he promulgated the following document:—

"Sir Sidney Smith allows the officers of his ship, gentlemen, his or their guests, passengers, gentlemen petty officers, and young gentlemen volunteers, free access to his books, maps, and charts, in the portion of the fore-cabin that will be generally opened as a reading-room, between the hours of ten A.M. and one hour before the dinner hours at sea and at harbour, as it may be; which will be notified by these rules being hung up in a conspicuous place therein, and the shutters of the fore-bulkhead being opened; access being then to be had by the starboard-door, the larboard one being reserved for communication with the admiral on service, or otherwise.

"The following regulations are to be observed for general convenience.

"1st. The most absolute SILENCE is to be maintained; salutations are mutually dispensed with; messages and answers are not to be conveyed within the reading-room.

"2nd. Any gentleman selecting a book, with the intention of reading it through, will mark his place with a ticket inscribed with his name, and the date of his having so selected it; and although another may take it up for perusal in his absence, and also mark his place therein in like manner, the first ticket is not to be removed, and the occupant is to make over the book to the

person whose marking ticket is of prior date, on his appearance in the reading-room, without his claiming or requesting it.

" N.B. The Encyclopædia, Hutton's Mathematical and Philosophical Dictionary, and all other dictionaries; the Naval Chronicle, Panorama, and other periodical publications, are excepted from this rule, and to be generally accessible when out of hand.

" 3rd. No books or newspapers to be taken out of the reading-room.

" 4th. All books are to be replaced on the shelves, or in the chest from which they were taken; and generally, on the removal of these rules from their place at the hour appointed, observing that they are arranged on the shelves according to their comparative sizes, in gradual succession, without reference to their contents, and in their boxes according to their classification, with reference to the subject or characteristic marked thereon.

" 5th. Should any gentleman wish to call the attention of any other to any particular rule, the mode of so doing, without a breach of the first rule, is, by exhibiting to him the card containing the rule in question.

" 6th. Any gentleman inclined to leave a book of his own for general perusal, will please

to put his name on the title-page, and insert its title and his name in the book appropriated for that purpose.

"Printed on board the Hibernia, January, 1813."

We may, in this place, inform the reader that both the flag-ships, the Caledonia, bearing the flag of the commander-in-chief, and Sir Sidney's ship, had on board of them very complete printing presses, with all the necessary types and furniture.

There is now in the Bodleian library at Oxford a book which was printed on board the Hibernia, which was presented to it by our officer.

CHAPTER XIII.

At the close of the war Sir Sidney visits Cagliari—Entertains the King of Sardinia—Returns to England, and strikes his flag—Receives the freedom of Plymouth—Projects an union of all orders of knighthood for the abolition of white slavery.

WHILST Sir Sidney was assisting at this wearisome blockade, Buonaparte was precipitating his vast and gallant army upon the snows of Russia, and soon found in its annihilation that adverse turn of fate from which he never recovered, though he rallied manfully against his destiny.

In this state of doubt as to the security of his power, anarchy made its appearance in the south of France, many portions of which, long before the lion was caught and chained, showed a disposition to hoist the white over the tricolour flag. This was a juncture of circumstances peculiarly fitted for the exercise of the various talents of Sir Sidney Smith.

Unfortunately, if there be any reliance on rumour, our officer was not on the most cordial terms with Sir Edward Pellew. Sir Sidney was so well fitted to be a commander-in-chief, that the consciousness of it made him less suited to act a secondary part. *Aut Cesar aut nihil*, if not his motto, the sentiment it expressed seemed, at least, to be paramount with him. Just before the re-establishment of the Bourbons in their ancient power, Sir Sidney separated from the fleet with the Hibernia, and repaired to Cagliari, no doubt for the purpose of forwarding the legitimate movement that was then beginning so generally to display itself. On this occasion, the King of Sardinia and suite dined on board his flag-ship. At this *fête*, not only were the usual captains and commanders invited to meet royalty, but the vice-admiral bid, as his guests, with his accustomed liberality, all the senior lieutenants and midshipmen of his squadron. From this munificent act, the last named class of officers augured very wisely, that a general peace was most certainly on the eve of being proclaimed.

Shortly after this, Sir Sidney returned to England, and struck his flag. This was the last time in which he was employed afloat in the service of his country. Soon after his arrival in England, the mayor and commonalty of the

borough of Plymouth voted him the freedom of their corporation, which was presented to him in a silver box. This took place on the 7th of July, 1814, as indicated by the following document:—

"At the common hall of the mayor and commonalty of the borough of Plymouth, held at the Guildhall of and within the said borough, on Thursday, the 7th day of July instant, in pursuance of a regular notice of three clear days from Henry Woolcombe, Esq., mayor, for the purpose hereinafter mentioned.

"The mayor and the commonalty, in common hall assembled, being desirous of recording their sense of high desert, and their gratitude for the eminent services to their country, more especially on that branch of his Majesty's service with which, from local circumstances, they are more immediately connected, have taken in their consideration the meritorious actions of Vice-admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, now arrived at this port, from his command on the Mediterranean station, at the conclusion of a war of unexampled importance, through the long course of which this gallant officer has been actively and eminently engaged.

"In this eventful war, in which the naval and

military renown of Britain has been extended to a pitch, not only exceeding the recorded glory of former ages, but even the most ardent expectations of the present times; a war, not more distinguished by the stupendous victories of fleets and armies, than by the most brilliant instances of individual prowess. No exploit has surpassed the astonishing defence of Acre.

"To Sir Sidney Smith it was given, by fortitude, perseverance, conduct, and valour, to revive and augment the glories of England in Palestine, and, on the plains of Nazareth, to defeat the gigantic ambition of France, meditating the destruction of British power in India.

"Nor were the ability and valour of the chieftain more distinguished on this memorable occasion than his humanity; that humanity which, in the moment of victory, has ever adorned the brightest examples of British heroism, and which, in this instance, admitted of no check from the recollection of unmerited sufferings and indignities in a captivity unauthorised by the usages of war, and inflicted in revenge for the exercise of that zeal, intrepidity, and spirit of enterprise, which should have commanded the admiration rather than the detestation of his foes. We have, therefore, unanimously resolved to confer the freedom of the said borough on the said Sir William Sidney

Smith, Knt. Grand Cross of the military order of the Sword in Sweden, &c., and Vice-admiral of the red squadron of his Majesty's fleet, in testimony of his high, distinguished, and meritorious services; and it is ordered that the same be presented to him in a silver box by a committee of the commonalty.

"Resolved, that the following gentlemen, viz. Sir William Elford, Bart., recorder, John Arthur, Esq., justice, Richard Pridhomme, Esq., Robert Butler Bennet, M.D., and George Bellamy, M.D., be a committee for the above purpose, and that any three of them be competent to act.

"Resolved, that the mayor be requested to communicate the above resolutions to Sir William Sidney Smith, and to acquaint him that the deputation will wait on him with the freedom when he shall next come within the borough.

"JOSEPH WHITEFORD,
"*Town Clerk.*"

Peace was not permitted to check our hero's activity in doing good. He now took up the cause of philanthropy in its noblest sense, by endeavouring to put an end to the white slavery that had been so successfully carried on, for generations, by the piratical states of the northern shores of Africa. He immediately set about

establishing a society, in which he sought to enrol the names and to secure the protection and assistance of all the European potentates. To effect this, being still in England, he published the following document, which, at the time, excited a very great sensation. This is the first of the papers relative to the reports of the President of the re-union of all knights of all the European orders, which took place at Vienna on the 29th of December, 1814.

" Memorial upon the necessity and the means to exterminate the pirates of the barbarian nations."

" *London, August* 31, 1814.

' Whilst the means of abolishing the slave-trade of the negro on the western coast of Africa are discussed, and whilst civilised Europe is endeavouring to extend the benefits of commerce, and of the security of person and property into the interior of this vast continent, peopled with a race of men naturally mild and industrious, and capable of enjoying the highest degree of civilisation, it is astonishing that no attention has been turned to the southern coast of this same country, which is inhabited by Turkish pirates, who not only oppress the natives in their neighbourhood, but carry them off,

and purchase them as slaves, in order to employ them in armed vessels, to tear away from their firesides the honest cultivators of the soil, and the peaceable inhabitants of the shores of Europe. This shameful piracy is not only revolting to humanity, but it fetters commerce in the most disastrous manner, since, at present, mariners can neither navigate the Mediterranean nor the Atlantic in a merchant-vessel, without the fear of being carried off by pirates, and led away into slavery in Africa. The Algerine government is composed of an orta, or a regiment of Janissaries, revolted soldiers, assuming not to recognise, even in appearance, the authority of the Ottoman Porte, who, however, does not acknowledge their independence. The Dey is always that individual of the orta who has the most distinguished himself by his cruelty. He is now at the head of the regency or divan, enriching his confederates,—that is to say, permitting them to practise all manner of violence in Africa, and piracies at sea, against the weaker European nations, or those whose immediate vengeance it does not fear.

" Even the Ottoman flag itself is no protection for its Greek subjects, in sheltering them from the Algerine corsairs. Lately, the Dey, either through the caprice of cruelty, or by a barbarous

policy, the end of which is to destroy the rival commerce of Tunis and Tripoli, has hung the crews of some ships that have fallen into his power, from the Archipelago and Egypt, and which were laden with corn.

"The Pacha of Egypt, in his just anger, has caused all Algerines found in his territories to be imprisoned, and demands in vain the restitution of the cargoes so unjustly seized by the Dey of Algiers.

"The Sublime Porte sees with indignation, and even with umbrage, that a revolted vassal dares to perform the most outrageous and the most atrocious acts against his peaceful subjects, and that it cripples a commerce, of which he was never more in need, in order to be enabled to pay the troops of the pachas employed upon the eastern frontier of the Ottoman empire, in order to oppose the Wachabites, and the other numerous Arabian tribes, which, under sectarian influence, cease not, by their invasions, to threaten the existence of his tottering government.

"On the other side, Europe is interested in the support of the Ottoman government, as an acknowledged authority, and as a power which is able to restrain the pachas and the revolted beys, and preventing them from following the example

of Algiers, in becoming sea-robbers. This interests Europe the more particularly, in the need that is often experienced for the import of corn from the Black Sea and from the Nile, countries where there is always a superabundance; whilst, in the Ottoman empire, the bad season of the north is always counterbalanced by the good season of the south in the same year, and *vice versâ*.

"Thus, if a barbarian, calling himself an independent sovereign, though not acknowledged as such by the Turkish sultan, his rightful sovereign, may, as he thinks fit, threaten, coerce, and hang the Greeks, imprison the mariners of the small European states, who alone carry on a trade that the ships of the greater powers do not find sufficiently advantageous to follow, because they cannot navigate at so small an outlay; if this bold chief of pirates may, at his own good pleasure, intercept cargoes of corn destined for Europe, civilised nations are, in this respect, dependent upon a chief of robbers, who can, unknown to them, increase their distress, and even famish them in times of scarcity.

"This barbarian has also another formidable method of extorting money from christian princes; he threatens them, as he has just served Sicily, to put to death all their subjects that may fall into his power; his well-known cruelty ren-

dering these threats the more formidable, because to him the means of making use of the money of one christian prince to carry on the war that he has declared against another; he can thus place all Europe under contribution, and force, in a manner, nations, each in its turn, to pay tribute to his ferocity, in purchasing from him the lives of the unfortunate slaves, and peace.

" It is useless to demonstrate that such a state of things is not only monstrous but absurd, and that it no less outrages religion than humanity and honour. The progress of knowledge and civilisation ought, necessarily, to dispel it.

" It is evident that the military capabilities employed by christian princes, up to this moment, to keep in check these barbarous states, have been, not only insufficient, but more often have been operative to consolidate still more this barbarian power. Europe has, for a long period, appeared to rely on the efforts of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and not sufficiently to have understood that this order of chivalry had not, latterly, the power, and perhaps not the energy, sufficient to counterbalance and repel the continually recurring aggressions of these numerous pirates. Besides, through the nature of its institution, the order of Malta, forbidden to have any intercourse with infidels, cannot turn to advan-

tage all political resources, in making treaties of alliance with those among them who are rather the victims of this piratical system than pirates themselves; as, for example, Tunis and Morocco, both of them governed by princes born in these states, and who have, for a long time, shown themselves well disposed, and are quite capable of maintaining with European powers social and commercial relations.

"Thus, the revival of this order, after the political suicide that it has committed, would not be sufficient to accomplish the object proposed. This object is to secure Europe for ever from the assaults of the African corsairs, and to cause these states, essentially piratical, because barbarous, to establish governments useful to commerce, and in harmony with civilised nations.

"Now, what are the means to be employed? The undersigned wishes to make Europe share in his conviction, the result of thirty years of study and of profound examination. He never ceased, during his mission to the Ottoman court, and in his command in the Levant, to occupy himself with the subject on which he is now speaking. It was ever present to him, both in the fields and on the waves of this same power, and during the whole course of those relations, that are publicly enough known, which he had

with the nations and the territories of Asia and Africa.

" This internal conviction of the possibility of promptly putting an end to this system of brigandage of those barbarian states, cannot better be proved than by the offer that he makes to take upon himself the direction of the enterprise, provided that the necessary means be placed at his disposal.

" Animated by the remembrance of his oaths as a knight, and desiring to excite the same ardour in other christian knights, he proposes to the nations the most interested in the success of this noble enterprise, to engage themselves, by treaty, to furnish each their contingent of a maritime, or, more properly speaking, amphibious force, which, without compromising any flag, and without depending on the wars or the political events of the nations, should constantly guard the shores of the Mediterranean, and take upon itself the important office of watching, pursuing, and capturing all pirates by land and by sea. This power, owned and protected by all Europe, would not only give perfect security to commerce, but would finish by civilising the African coasts, by preventing their inhabitants from continuing their piracy, to the prejudice of productive industry and legitimate commerce.

"This protective and imposing force would commence its operations by the vigorous blockade of the barbarian naval forces, wherever they might be found; at the same time that ambassadors from all the sovereigns and states of Christianity ought mutually to support each other, in representing to the Sublime Porte, that she cannot be otherwise than herself responsible for the hostile acts of her subjects, if she continues to permit the African garrisons to recruit in her territories, which are of no utility to her, whilst these forces would be better employed against her enemies than against European and armed powers; and in requiring from her a formal disavowal, and even an authentic interdiction against the wars that these rebel chiefs declare against Europe.

"The Ottoman Porte might be induced to grant promotion and rewards to those of the Janissaries, captains of frigates, and others, Algerine mariners, who should obey the Sultan's command; and, by these means, the Dey would soon find himself abandoned, and without adequate means of defence.

"The other details will be easily developed when the sovereigns shall have adopted the principle, and when they shall have deigned to grant to the undersigned the confidence and the au-

thority necessary to the success of the enterprise.

"Received, considered, and adopted at Paris, September, 1814; at Turin, October 14th, 1814; and at Vienna, during the meeting of the Congress of the allied sovereigns.

(Signed) "WM. SIDNEY SMITH."

At this time it was understood that the allied sovereigns on the continent were already subscribers to a charitable fund towards the abolition of the white slave trade in North Africa, as well as of the black slave trade in West Africa, and that all bankers received subscriptions for the *caisse* in the hands of Messieurs Gaulifreres at Genoa, on whom the consuls in Africa were authorised to draw.

Sir Sidney Smith, accompanied by his family, at the restoration of Louis XVIII., repaired to Paris, and there took up his residence, at which place, with the exception of occasional tours, he has, up to the present time, remained.

CHAPTER XIV

Particulars concerning Captain Wright—That officer taken by gunboats—Is well treated in the first instance—The subsequent persecutions to which he was subjected.

We have, in the course of this memoir, stated, and that without meaning the least disrespect to Captain Wright's memory, that he was generally employed by Sir Sidney Smith to collect for him information, to arrange the minor details of treaties and compacts, to aid him in diplomacy; in fact, to be his coadjutor in all manner of head-work, and that, the more effectually to perform this, he was often habited in other dresses than the uniform prescribed by the Admiralty. These services, and the singular positions in which Sir Sidney Smith found himself when he called for their employment, as we have before mentioned,

made the lower grades of the navy, who are apt to give the shortest, though perhaps not the most just appellation to the person so occupied, designate Captain Wright as a spy. This is a harsh term, but its signification must altogether change with the parties who use it.

If Captain Wright volunteer on a dangerous service—a service that involves, if unsuccessful, not only certain death, but great obloquy, his country, for whom this risk is run, applauds the self-sacrifice, and honours the private and clandestine seeker for information, as a patriot and a hero, whilst the hostile party covers him with opprobium, and hangs him up with as little ceremony, and with much less compunction, than they would a mangy dog. To the English, therefore, Captain Wright is a bold, an intelligent, and self-devoted patriot; and one who was selected for this kind of delicate and adventurous service, because he possessed more judgment, and as much courage as his brother officers. That he was a most estimable man, one upon the knowledge of whom love and respect were bound to attend, all who have read his memoirs, or whoever met him in private life, must eagerly testify. Sir Sidney esteemed him to a degree that might have been termed romantic, had he been a less deserving object; and as soon as he found himself on the

scene of their mutual sufferings, he commenced an inquiry into the details of his friend's mysterious death with all the ardour and the intelligence of his character.

We have before stated it as our opinion that this meritorious officer was not sacrificed to the vengeance of Buonaparte, or perished the victim of a miserable and detestable state policy. He fell either by his own act, or by the operations of private malice. We will, notwithstanding, implore the reader to judge for himself; and in order that he may do so the more effectually, we submit to him the following documents, interesting in themselves, and throwing all the light that has yet been obtained upon this dark and terrible transaction.

These documents are abridged from the "Naval Chronicle;" and we again take the opportunity of acknowledging how much we are indebted to that valuable work for many of the materials of these memoirs. In order to preserve the continuity of the narrative, we shall throw into one form the whole of Sir Sidney's researches into this affair, and, disregarding dates, go through with it at once.

As it is not our intention to give an abstract of the life of this very meritorious and unfortunate officer, we shall merely take up the narrative at the time

of his second capture, which led to his imprisonment and death; and then proceed with the inquiry instituted by his friend Sir Sidney Smith, in order to arrive at the truth of the circumstances that led to his mysterious end.

On the 7th of May, 1804, toward the evening, Captain Wright, accompanied by the surgeon, Mr. Lawmont, went on shore on the Isle of Houat. The night was dark and hazy, and it blew a gale. On returning, he nearly missed the brig, but at last got on board, and ordered her to be steered in the direction of Porto Navallo. Towards morning the wind had died away, and at daylight there was a dead calm. Seventeen gun-vessels, perceiving his situation, took advantage of it, and rowed out in pursuit of the Vincejo, then completely becalmed near the mouth of the harbour.

Every exertion was made by the officers and crew to sweep or tow her off, but the flotilla rapidly gained on her—opened their fire, and when she arrived near the Teigneuse rocks, the flood-tide met her, and she was drifted back into the bay. The action now began, and was continued nearly two hours, under every advantage on the part of the enemy, when, after a heavy loss of men, Captain Wright was obliged to surrender; and thus, under circumstances similar to those

which consigned him to his former captivity, was he again placed in the hands of the enemy.

Captain Wright had a strong presentiment of the fate that awaited him, and, without recurring to supernatural influence, his former experience of the enmity of those who were now to dispose of him, would be sufficient to account for it. He was entreated by his officers to escape on board the Fox cutter, which was then sweeping out of the bay, at no great distance; but he firmly opposed their importunities, and insisted on sharing the fate of his officers and gallant ship's company. Had there been no reason to apprehend worse than the ordinary treatment of a captured commander, the persuasions of his officers would have borne the character of insult; but their fear was too well founded, that his fate would be *particular!*

The French carried their hard-earned prize into Porto Navallo, a small harbour in the mouth of the river Vilaine, and treated the officers with polite attention. In the evening. the whole of the prisoners were conveyed in boats to Auray, where also they were kindly treated, the officers being lodged in private houses: the men were sent to a prison. The wounded were conveyed to the hospital, and, on their passing through the

streets, the inhabitants were seen flocking round them from the houses, and offering them wine.

After remaining here several days, orders arrived for their being conducted into the interior of France; and some of the principal inhabitants evinced their respect to Captain Wright, by accompanying him a considerable way from the town. He proceeded, with the surgeon, to Vannes, in a small cart, and the whole were guarded by a few gendarmes, and some of the national guard, under the command of a Swiss officer.

Soon after reaching Vannes, he went, accompanied by Lieutenant Wallis, and his nephew, Mr Wright, to pay a visit to General Julien, then prefect of the department of the Morbihan. This officer had been wounded and made prisoner in Egypt, and was treated with a brotherly kindness by Captain Wright, who resigned to him his cabin on board the Tigre, off St. Jean d'Acre, where he remained on board several months, and parted with him under protestations of eternal friendship. To the disgrace of General Julien we record it, he returned all this kindness with ingratitude: he ordered Captain Wright to be arrested at the inn, where he had stopped, and sent him to Paris in charge of a gendarme,

treacherously pretending that he adopted this mode of proceeding from a regard to his comfort. To add to the atrocity of this act, he, at the same time, addressed a letter to Fouché, the minister of police. He began his letter by saying, that having heard the crew of an English corvette, which had been captured a few days before by a division of the national flotilla, was passing through Vannes, he had repaired to the spot to examine if there were among them any traitors like those who had lately been vomited on the coasts; but what was his surprise, when in the commander he recognised the celebrated Captain Wright, who had landed Pichegru, &c., and whom he had formerly known in Egypt; and as he thought he might make some useful revelations, he had sent him forward by the gendarmerie, with a very young nephew, and his servant. He next represented Captain Wright as a most artful and dangerous adventurer, who thought himself destined to act some high part—that he affected to set all interrogatories at defiance, as he acted under the orders of his government, and was accountable only to it—but, added the General, if he is *properly* questioned, he will make revelations of much importance to the Republic.

The crew of the 'Vincejo' were drawn up

without the gates of Vannes. Captain Wright there took an affectionate leave of them, many of whom shed tears. He said, as he passed before them, that in whatever situation he might be placed, he should never forget that he was a British officer.

On his arrival at Paris, he was subjected to many interrogatories, to all which he firmly answered, that he had no account to render to the French government, and that he would answer none of the questions put to him. He was then conveyed to the Tower of the Temple, and confined in a very small room in one of the upper turrets of that state prison, two soldiers being placed with him in the cell.

Thus lodged and guarded, he remained until he was brought forward at the public trial of Georges Cadoudal, the Marquis de Rivière, Moreau, and others, termed conspirators by Buonaparté, and with them he was confronted. Georges, De Rivière, and some others, denied positively any knowledge of him, and Captain Wright, though suffering extremely from a wound in the thigh, nobly persisted, in answer to all the insidious questions of the grand judge and others, that he was accountable to none but his own government for his public conduct, would answer

no questions, and insisted on the treatment due to a prisoner of war of his rank.

In spite of the awful police of this tribunal, a thunder of applause burst from the crowd of spectators in the galleries, and being faint with his exertions, and the pain of his wound, he was allowed to withdraw, which he did, bowing to the spectators, who again applauded him. His nephew, then not fourteen years of age, was also questioned, and answered with a coolness and firmness that again excited the applause of the spectators, whom the all-powerful police could not awe into silence.

The firmness of Captain Wright seems to have procured him better treatment from his enemies, or the semblance of it, preparatory to their final purpose: he was now allowed a room to himself in the Temple, with the company of his nephew, and the system of rigour was to be next adopted against the officers of the Vincejo, for the like purpose of extorting the important *revelations* which the honourable General Julien had represented as attainable, if *vroperly* questioned.

These gentlemen were all conveyed to Paris, and subjected to various interrogatories; first in the prison of the Abbaye, and afterwards in the

Tower of the Temple, where they were confined in separate cells, without any communication with each other, or with any of the other prisoners of the Temple. This solitary imprisonment was continued twenty-six days, with bread and water for their sole nourishment, and without being allowed to quit their cell an instant. During this period, they were repeatedly interrogated in the night-time by agents of police, accompanied by gendarmes, relative to the supposed mission of Captain Wright. At length they were permitted to lodge together in one large room, and they had now, by stealth, some intercourse with their captain; but the interest he took in contemplating and advising the future conduct of the young gentlemen of his ship, whom he called his *admirals in embryo*, seemed to render him totally unmindful of his own critical situation.

About the middle of July, all his officers were ordered from the Temple. By connivance of the keeper, they had an interview with the captain, who seemed cheerful, though evidently impressed with a strong presentiment of the melancholy fate that awaited him. On taking leave of the surgeon, Mr. Laumont, he said impressively, "I hope we may meet again under more

favourable circumstances; but, at all events, whatever may happen to me in my present position, I will behave, believe me, whatever reports may be sent abroad, like a christian and a British officer." The following letter from him soon after reached the first lieutenant at Verdun, and is strongly characteristic of his excellent and affectionate heart:—

" Dear Wallis,—In order to intrude but little on the translator in office, and to favour an early delivery of my letter, I send you this time merely a short one, in acknowledgment of your kind perseverance, which procured me the pleasure of receiving yours of the 29th, a few days ago.

" Accept my thanks for your congratulation on my promotion, which is, however, become indifferent to me, farther than to demonstrate the liberality and justice of government, of which I never entertained a doubt. I beg you to bear in mind, that I have every proper feeling on the occasion, and the handsome manner in which it has been conferred has not escaped my observation, or failed to have due weight; although it has been in my contemplation to resign my commission, through an official channel here, in order to relieve government from the embarrassment

my extraordinary situation must have placed it under, and to prevent a practice which I forbear to characterise, bearing upon other victims on either side; but I felt, on further reflection, that although I was willing to forego its protection, yet no act of mine, thus situated, could absolve my government from the performance of its duty to a British subject.

"I rejoice to hear that you are within the immediate jurisdiction of a liberal-minded man; for I was under some anxiety as to the *régime* you might be subject to. I think I had already prepared you to expect benevolence from individuals, when they might be at liberty to exercise that benign principle: give it the fullest credit, make much of it, as one fair means of giving it farther extension, and make use of the custom under your eye to obliterate from the young mind of my poor boys unfavourable impressions, to which they may already have yielded.

"I rejoice also to hear at length that you are near those dear boys, in whose progress my whole solicitude at present centres: give them my best wishes, and recal to their memory what has been so often pressed on them; I must have no idleness, no indecorous boyish tricks, no habits of riot or inebriety, no deviation from truth, no adoption

of prejudice, no tendency to exaggeration, no indiscriminate censure or proscription *en masse;* but a liberal, gentlemanly conduct, and a steady persevering assiduity, which will alone surmount the difficulties that are before them. Remind them often of their destination; of the precious leisure they have but momentarily on their hands: let the mainspring of all their outward actions be the character of our dear country, and repeat how much I expect from them. If Mr. Trewin's son be amongst them, let him partake of all the advantages I purpose securing to my own three boys, but with such delicacy as will neither hurt his own nor his parent's feelings; in the mean time, apply to my authority when the pecuniary means are attainable, which in the course of our correspondence, should it continue, I shall specially appropriate.

"I am not unaware, my dear Wallis, that I am thus imposing a difficult task, and laying a heavy burthen on you; but I am sure you undertake the one cheerfully, and will bear the other with patience. Give my best wishes to all my officers individually, and tell the doctor I take it for granted he makes good use of his time. I recommend him to walk the public hospitals, if there are any in the neighbourhood,

and to follow up his chemistry with ardour. I shall be glad to hear from any of my officers, when they are in a scribbling mood. If it be possible, let my servant Henry attend on the boys, and tell him I have begged you to take care of him. Is poor Mr. Brown recovered? The last time I heard of him was before your departure, and that was unfavourable. Pray give me an account nominally of all my people; poor old Sampson, you know, is no more. Is that poor creature, whose wishes death seemed unwilling to accomplish, still living?

"I have a little amiable cat, that has just taken the caprice of laying her whole length on my paper, and purs to me as nearly as I can guess, 'mercy on the translator;' so all that I can say is, that I have taken the liberty to make you a sort of foster-father to my little admirals in embryo; you must assume a gravity suitable to the weighty occasion: you perceive that I am not without amiable society; and I must tell you, for the comfort of my other little amiable creatures, who may weep for my misfortunes, that I can bear them, however great or multiplied; but that I am less ill off than people at a distance, whose apprehensions magnify evil, are aware of; for I have within a few months had the faculty of procuring books, and subscribing to the 'Mo-

niteur,' whose foibles and prejudices, I assure you, I am in no danger of adopting. Now, fare you well, and believe me, most faithfully and unfeignedly, your friend,

" J. W. WRIGHT.

" P. S. Tell me particularly all the boys have done; tell them I continually think of their progress; let no partiality, except that inspired by excellence or superior merit, be shown to one above another; for a favourite has no friend.'

It seems strange that our government had hitherto made no attempt to save our much-lamented countryman, by threatening retaliation on the prisoners of rank in their power. At last, however, the British ministers, through the medium of the Spanish ambassador, remonstrated against the severity of Captain Wright's treatment, as authorised by the French government, and was answered by the French minister, Talleyrand, with promises, couched in the most insulting terms, no doubt dictated by Buonaparté himself, styling Captain Wright a person of the most frightful character, (*un homme affreux,*) whom they could not deign to treat as a prisoner of war, being sure that no French officer would consent to be exchanged against him, and pro-

posing to send him to some neutral port, there to be placed at the disposal of the British government. But there is reason to believe, that at the time these fallacious promises and propositions were made, Captain Wright had ceased to exist. A paragraph shortly after appeared in a minor paper, the 'Gazette de France,' stating, "Captain Wright, of the English navy, a prisoner in the Temple, who had debarked on the French coast Georges and his accomplices, has put an end to his existence in his prison, after having read in the 'Moniteur' an account of the destruction of the Austrian army."

The absurdity of this statement was alone sufficient to divest it of all credit. There existed strong ground to presume that he was put to death by the orders of Buonaparté; that he was brought to a mock trial, and condemned to be shot; and that this sentence was executed in private. An officer of the imperial guard asserted, in the hearing of Mr. Laumont, that he was present at this odious transaction. Before this information, it was believed that he was, like Pichegru, strangled in his cell. One thing certain is, that in the Temple he was attended by the man who was universally believed by the other prisoners of the Temple to have been the assassin of Pichegru. This has been repeatedly stated by

some who had been confined there at the time this unfortunate general was also said to have committed suicide.

The following account was the almost universal impression in England of this gentleman's fate. We shall now proceed to show what means were taken by Sir William Sidney Smith to unravel this mystery.

"The catastrophe of our former narrative," says our authority, "was sufficiently final, but not equally demonstrative. It is owing to the recent exertions of Sir Sidney Smith, that additional evidence has been procured, which, although it does not yet leave the fact of his murder positively incontrovertible by those whom nothing but direct evidence, or the personal confession of the assassins, can satisfy, it does not leave a doubt on our minds. The evidence is in some particulars contradictory, but the contradiction is on one side so evidently absurd, that in our opinion it rather tends to confirm than to confute the opposing testimony.

"The active benevolence and humanity of Sir Sidney Smith, (principles essential to the perfection of true heroism, and which have completed that gallant knight's title to chivalric distinction,) while engaged in projecting the suppression of barbaric tyranny, and the final redemption of

christian captives from slavery and torture, prompted the equally honourable, though less conspicuous, design of ascertaining, by a diligent inquisition, the circumstances relative to the death of his late pupil, fellow-prisoner, and friend. Accordingly, previous to his leaving London for Vienna in 1814, he wrote to Madame B*******, the widow of the gaoler, (Concierge,) who was keeper of the Tower when he and Captain Wright escaped in 1798, requesting of her such information as she could give or procure of his unfortunate friend's fate.

"When Sir Sidney entered Paris with the Allies last July, Madame B******* came to him, and told him, that she had written an answer, in consequence of his request: it had, however, never been received by Sir Sidney, and she recapitulated her information in a letter, which letter will form one portion of the recently collected evidence.

"In the prosecution of this very laudable design, Sir Sidney has been sedulously employed at Paris. The French government have likewise, at his request, very honourably afforded him every becoming facility. The offices and officers of the police have been rendered immediately accessible to his search and inquiry, which, judiciously directed, has produced the recovery of all

the captain's papers, and such evidence of his assassination as seems to have left no doubt on the mind of Sir Sidney—(we repeat it)—no doubt on ours; and we presume it must carry equal conviction to every mind not impenetrably callous to circumstantial evidence, which in most cases of murder is all that can possibly be obtained, but by the voluntary confession of the parties concerned.

"The regal government of France, as we have already observed, has aided Sir Sidney in his inquiry, and has given up, on the claim of that officer, everything connected with the name of his late friend; viz. 1st. Copies and translations taken by the police of all his correspondence, as it passed through the hands of office. 2ndly. Documents and other papers taken violently from his person and room, at a domiciliary visit in the prison. 3rdly. Every scrap of paper found in the apartment after his death, so very minute and miscellaneous, as to justify the integrality of this collection, all regularly numbered by the proper officer, and stitched together at the corner, affording a curious specimen of the accuracy of French administration, compared with the careless, slovenly way in which such matters are, or would probably be, transacted here. 'They manage these things better in

France,' as Sterne says. These papers are in two sets: viz.

Marked G, and numbered 1 to . . .	208
Under one numerical entry, 8866 . .	15
Total pieces . .	223

of every size, from a folio sheet to fragments two inches long by half-inch broad; a reading mark, a servant's account, or even the title of a book.

"The greater part of the mass of papers above numerically stated, appears in its contents to have been the mere ways and means of speeding the lingering hours of captivity; but it also contains a proof, that however indifferent to the menaces of death with which that captivity was embittered by his enemies, he was sensibly alive to the preservation of his honour in the eyes of his countrymen, and assiduously desirous of leaving a fair fame behind him; a desire so natural to true magnanimity, that inferring the principle from the existence of its concomitant, we are warranted in construing his conduct by correspondent motives, and in allowing the claims he was so anxious to justify. We here allude to a written justification of his conduct in the Vincejo, previous to her capture, as connected with a narrative of his subsequent treatment by the

government of France; from which it may be inferred that he had been accused of pusillanimity!—an accusation which would imply that the same man could exhibit the character of a coward possessed of power, and a hero, destitute, and in the power of a rancorous enemy—a manifest contradiction to all ordinary experience of human conduct; for be it observed, that the firm behaviour of Captain Wright was not the momentary daring of final desperation, but a consistent display of fortitude under various instances of trial. In fact, it was all but the last resort of a mean, inglorious tyranny—it was to blast the hard-earned reputation of an unfortunate captive, previous to his sacrifice as the victim of malice, that the "Moniteur" threw out its unjust and inconsistent aspersions; and it was to obviate its possible effects, that Captain Wright drew up the justificatory narrative or memorial which we shall now lay before our readers; it is valuable, as being a copy of the original relation in the captain's own handwriting, and apparently—his farewell to the world

CHAPTER XV.

A Narrative by the late Captain Wright; containing a Justification of his Conduct in the Vincejo against certain Calumnies in the "Moniteur," &c., and an Account of his Treatment by the French Government, subsequent to his capture, found among his papers, in his own handwriting, recently claimed by Sir Sidney Smith, and given up by the present Government of France.

"HAD it ever occurred to me that blame could in any manner attach to my conduct, under the closest scrutiny of a court composed of my brother officers, famed for the severity of their criticism on all that concerns the honour of the country and the reputation of the navy, and who are at least as good judges as the enemy, of the risks that a brave and enterprising officer ought reasonably to run in performing the king's service;

I confess that I should more readily have anticipated a charge of temerity, than a censure of pusillanimity. If with, I may fairly assert, as ill-manned a ship as ever sailed from England, a station was maintained singly, with very little interval, for three months, without a pilot, within the enemy's islands, in the mouths of their rivers, in the presence of an extremely superior force, continually in motion; if his convoys, attended by this force, were as often chased, forced out of their course, and obliged to take shelter in ports they were not destined for; if that very weak and inefficient ship's company was in that time, by unremitting attention and exertion, brought to such a state of discipline as gave me sufficient confidence to wait for, and chase into her own port, an enemy's ship, in all respects greatly superior to the brig I commanded; if lying-to a whole day in the enemy's road at the mouth of a river, bidding defiance to two brigs, each of nearly equal force with the Vincejo, a schooner, and fifty sail of armed gunboats, brigs, and luggers, all under weigh, and occasionally laying their heads off the land, but keeping close to their batteries; if after having got ashore in the mouth of a river, within grape-range of the batteries, I had, I may well be permitted to say, the

audacity to unrig the Vincejo, get her guns out, and haul her high and dry into an enemy's port in a small island, between Belle-Isle and the main, within four miles of the continent, to examine her keel and repair her damage, making preparations in the mean time to fight a land battle, in case of a very probable attack, protected only by the presence of a frigate for a day or two; if taking and running on shore several of the enemy's vessels under the batteries, in sight of the above force; if unreeving and reeving double all my running rigging that was susceptible of it, and almost entirely rigging my ship anew, as much to increase my mechanical purchases, to supply the deficiency of hands in working her, as promptly to make sailors of my landsmen and boys, with whatever circumstances may be added to this catalogue, from my public account of the action, and the testimony of my immediate captors, be proofs of want of energy, bravery, intelligence, and seamanship, it must be acknowledged that I ought to take my place among arrant cowards and incorrigible lubbers.

"It is rather essential to observe, that the first account published of the capture was written by the general commanding at L'Orient. From his letter the value set upon this capture may be

collected, and which manifestly arose from the enterprise and activity of the Vincejo, as he speaks in terms of gratulation of the consequent arrival of a convoy at L'Orient from the Morbihan, which had been blockaded by this single brig; the convoy amounted to one hundred sail, with provisions, &c. for the fleet, chiefly that of Brest: this letter describes the action as being very warm for two hours. It is not less worthy of remark, that the 'Moniteur,' a few days after, described the action as desperate, and stated my loss at upwards of thirty men, chiefly of the flower of my ship's company; and it was not until many months after, that the government, disappointed that their base treatment produced no other sentiment in me than contempt, that the favourable impression my conduct had made on the public mind, and this improper treatment, began to be spoken of in appropriate terms both in France and in England, where it excited the attention of parliament, had recourse to the infamous expedient of calumniating my public and private character, to stop the clamour in England, and allay the apprehension here of retaliation.

"The aspersion of pusillanimity must appear so absurd to any one acquainted with my stand-

ing and services in the navy, that, quite superior as I am to anybody's opinion, in a case where I am conscious of the strictest rectitude, I should be inclined not to notice it at all, or at most to treat it as one would any vulgar prejudice that occurs in one's intercourse with the world, and which must be borne, because it would be more ridiculous to controvert, than to appear tacitly to let it pass; but that the charge so obviously arises out of the enemy's systematic attack upon our national character, and the general reputation of the navy and army of England, and ceases therefore to be an object of mere individual concern.

"I might here dismiss this charge, trusting that my known character, my official letter, and other details, the testimony of those I fought, that of my own officers and ship's company, the 'Moniteur's' first remarks, which of course bore the impression received from the coast, of the obstinacy of the conflict, contrasted with its subsequent remarks, imagined in Paris some months after to serve political purposes, and my deportment in the difficult and delicate scenes that have occurred since my confinement, would more than answer the aspersion to any impartial mind.

"The next in order are the numerous calumnies contained in the Prefect Julien's letter to the grand judge, which is a tissue of falsehood from the beginning to the end; but as it carries contradiction with itself, all I desire is that it may be read, and contrasted with the description I shall give of my interview with him, and the manner in which I claimed his acquaintance. To his assertion, that I am a fanatical enemy to Frenchmen, I have to observe, that, admitting for the moment the fact to be correct, there is nothing either criminal, or illegitimate, or unnatural, in an Englishman being at enmity with the enemies of his country, during a war; but I have had too wide an intercourse with the world to be subject to fanaticism of any kind; and my habits of social intimacy with Frenchmen, added to the lenient manner in which it is proved I have treated those enemies, by willingly wresting them from captivity, disease, and despair, in the vile prisons of Constantinople and of Rhodes; saving them from the rage of the Turks in Syria, and affording them prompt succour when languishing upon the field of battle in Egypt, as well as my humane conduct to them this war, must sufficiently invalidate that calumny as far as it was meant to attach.

"As to the artifice he imputes to me, it can-

not fail to appear to have arisen from my good sense enabling me to see through his treachery, for his conduct deserves no fairer epithet, and which he has clumsily discovered throughout his letter: and my demeanour in the critical circumstances I have since passed through, will perhaps have characterised a manly and energetic character, not very commonly allied to such a disposition.

"The very first practical lesson of humanity I recollect to have received was when, yet a very young boy, serving as midshipman, and in the character of a little aide-de-camp, to the now Admiral Sir Roger Curtis, at the defeat of the floating batteries, commonly called junk-ships, during the memorable siege of Gibraltar, the war before last. Under this humane and good man, the urbanity of whose manners is very well known, I, in a manner, received my early education, and probably the first stamp of my more mature character. Having, on the occasion above alluded to, boarded one of the enemy's ships, where there had been dreadful slaughter, and which was then on fire in several places, he ordered me to occupy our sailors solely in saving the wounded, and being near him, some time after, I saw him cut one of his own boats' crew, found plundering, severely in the arm, several

times with his sword, for not giving immediate succour to the distressed enemy; and he ended this example, in midst of the fire, by a most impressive lecture to all his people, in favour of the humane duties of a brave man. This very early impression fixed itself upon my young mind, and the principles then inculcated have since regulated my conduct: they have been strengthened and extended in a later school of the navy, under a commander of most enlightened humanity, whose generous disposition and amiable manners are not less conspicuous than his heroic gallantry. But it is not necessary to serve in any particular school in the British navy, to imbibe principles of generosity and humanity towards a vanquished enemy, for they are uniformly practised, and are even positively prescribed by the naval articles of war, which annexes degradation and very severe punishment to the breach of them. All I have thus said may, I trust, counterbalance the vague, though official, charge of my being an atrocious man, impudently published in the 'Moniteur.'

"I am not without hope of having succeeded in proving:—

"First, that I defended his Majesty's ship in a manner creditable to the British character, and the reputation of the navy, and honourable to my own fame; prolonging the fight until there was

no hope of succour, no chance of escape, and no possibility of victory by further resistance, yielding only when the ship was disabled in a perfect calm, the flower of my men killed or wounded, and an enemy, ten times as numerous as the little remnant of my people, advancing to board. I surrendered with the concurrence of my officers, after destroying all my signals, and every public and even private paper.

"Secondly; That Mr. Prefect Julien's charges are basely false and malicious.

"Thirdly; That the 'Moniteur's' abuse is as absurd as it is unfounded, and was malignantly intended to serve a political end: and lastly; that I shall prove, that through the whole of this melancholy scene I have performed my duty to my king and country, and to individuals, in the widest latitude of the term, and, to the very utmost of my power, supporting the character of my country with the energy becoming a British officer, disdaining every personal and private consideration that could have presented itself.

"I must remark, that if my ship's company had been the best that could be supposed to exist in a brig of the Vincejo's class, all that could have been hoped for, under the peculiar circumstances she was unfortunately engaged in, would be to protract the moment of surrender for

a very short time, and to do the enemy some little further damage. Their damage was comparatively less than the Vincejo's; they do not acknowledge to have had any men killed or wounded, although there is a strong presumption of their having, in this case, as is their uniform practice, concealed their loss; for several of my people, who were dispersed through the flotilla, reported to me that they had seen Frenchmen with their heads bound up, and their faces smeared with blood; and it appears to me next to impossible that all their men could have escaped unhurt, considering the direction some of my shot had taken fore and aft their crowded vessels, and the volleys of round and grape that had passed through their sails and rigging, leaving undeniable tokens of their passage. You very likely know that an English officer has it not in his option to conceal his loss; that he is forced, by the articles of war, to give true returns of it, which are published through the 'London Gazette;' and any one acquainted with the principles of our constitution, will readily see the reason of such instructions: so that the official account of our loss in battle, by sea and land, may always be considered as perfectly true, barring the trifling inaccuracies that are sometimes incidental to hurry, and the dispersion of corps,

and ships in service, before the returns can be carefully revised, but which argue nothing against their general correctness.

"Two of my men took a boat from Houat, and deserted to the coast of France; another was shot by accident by the armourer's mate, in cleaning the arms, and a few useless men, under a master's mate, had been sent to England in a prize. No person on board, I will affirm, had an idea that we should be able to fight and work the ship at the same time with so weak a ship's company; for that circumstance had more than once been a subject of conversation and regret between me and my officers; but, by unremitting attention, they were brought to handle her on one occasion, in presence of an enemy I had chased under Belle Isle, in such a manner as to inspire more confidence, and give me hopes of being able, in time, to become even actively enterprising with them.

"It was a great misfortune that the first action I had in her happened to be very severe, and in a calm, against rowing gunboats. My public and private letters, written previous to my departure from England, will, I doubt not, have been read again since my capture; and they will be found but too prophetic. I had not myself been blind to the danger, nor had dissem-

bled it to those with whom it lay to parry it: the energy of my representations had even excited a menace from Lord Keith; so that I was placed in the dilemma of either resigning my command, at a moment when a zealous officer could least reconcile it to himself, or of proceeding upon a service of uncommon danger and difficulty, with means quite inadequate to the object. I was under the necessity of sending back a lugger, because she sailed extremely ill, and could not be risked alone to run so great a distance along shore, when the enemy's flotilla were everywhere in motion.

"The Lively Custom-house cutter I sent a very short chase, almost in sight of a point of rendezvous; so that I remained with the Vincejo, and only one small and almost defenceless cutter, having only one gun and small arms, in the presence of an enemy daily increasing his force, whom I was to prevent from suspecting my weakness, which, however, he learned, at length, from the two deserters.

"It remains to be explained, to me at least, why the Lively failed me at the appointed rendezvous; but as it is far from my intention to criminate, or attempt to establish my own justification upon the delinquency of others, I am willing to believe that Lieutenant Rowe, an

officer to whose zeal and attention upon former services with me I am ready to bear handsome testimony, had good reasons for the conduct which prevented him from being present to support me with so efficient a vessel on the day of battle.

"I am not unaware that the master of the Lively, Mr. Smith, may be disposed to plead a scarcity of provisions, as a reason for not being able to remain at so great a distance from his own port; and to lay stress upon the uneasiness of his people, diverted from the service of the Custom-house, which they were alone engaged for, to be taken in the face of an enemy, in whose presence it would have required the rigour of the martial law, which he had not the power of exercising, to command them. But the Vincejo had already supplied him with provisions, and would have continued to afford all necessary supplies, as long as her provisions lasted, or the service might require him to keep that station. If the people had shown any disposition to be refractory, speedy measures could have been easily adopted, while the Lively had remained in company, to bring them to a proper sense of their duty. Had she been in company, it is more than probable that the flotilla would not have attempted to act offensively; or, in so doing,

would have been repulsed: for her presence must have made a difference of nearly half the number that was opposed to the Vincejo; beside the advantage of dividing attention, and the powerful effect of a flanking fire.

"It is not my wish to glance blame at the officers who superintended the manning of the Vincejo: that part of her equipment was performed, during my absence on the public service, by draughts from different ships at the Nore, and no one can be ignorant of the nature of sudden draughts from ships in a course of equipment, whose officers take such opportunities of getting rid of useless hands, and reluctantly part with any good man. Some persons will possibly cavil at these observations, and oppose to them numerous regulations instituted for the prevention of such abuses: but I speak of the service, not as it stands upon paper, but as it is executed in reality; and dare appeal to any liberal-minded officer, who has followed up the details of equipment, for a confirmation of what has been advanced. The bare inspection of the list of my ship's company, and the comparison of it with even her reduced establishment, cannot fail to flash conviction on the mind, that, although destined immediately to be employed on very particular and eminently hazardous service, she

was not manned in a manner adequate to the exigencies of even ordinary service. But, had her crew been the very best that could be imagined in a brig of her class, I will not be bold enough to affirm that, in the circumstances she fought under, I could have hoped to do more than protract the moment of surrender; and I am persuaded I shall hazard very little in asserting, that with four of such very manageable gun-vessels as were opposed to me, I would, under similar circumstances, attack a line-of-battle ship with well-grounded hope of completely disabling, if not finally subduing her. Some of my friends and my brother officers will, no doubt, recollect my having, previous to my departure, expressed such an opinion, and which my late experience has fully confirmed.

" Many attempts have been made to bribe and seduce my people from their allegiance to enter into the enemy's service. Mr. Keame, my gunner, a most valuable man, whose herculean form and intrepid countenance made the enemy covet his services, was repeatedly tampered with, and had large pecuniary offers made to him as a reward for becoming a traitor to his country; his conduct under this insult has been represented to me as highly loyal, manly, and energetic; and I am not aware that one of my ship's company swerved from his duty.

"It may perhaps be thought superfluous to have added anything to the details contained in my official letter, to prove that the Vincejo was defended to the last extremity, under eminently unfortunate circumstances, against a very superior force. But the impression which our obstinate resistance made upon the minds of our immediate antagonists, will possibly afford the very best testimony that could be desired, and the account written by me will derive a character of truth and impartiality from the corroborating speech addressed to me publicly and spontaneously by Monsieur le Tourneur, the enemy's commanding officer, upon my presenting my sword to him on board his ship. This speech was too remarkable at the time, and has since become too valuable a document, for me to feel unsolicitous for its preservation; some of my own officers were present, to whom I immediately repeated it in English, for their satisfaction. It follows nearly verbatim—'Monsieur, vous avez noblement défendu l'honneur de votre nation, et la reputation de votre marine; nous aimons et estimons les braves, et l'on vous traitera, vous et votre equipage, avec tous les égards possibles.' The sincerity of the sentiments here expressed was manifest in all this officer's conduct: after treating me with great respect and attention, he

sent me, with my officers, to Auray, accompanied by a single soldier, '*purement pour la forme*,' as he declared upon taking leave of me in a very friendly manner. So little was I guarded, or under restraint, on my arrival at that place, that I spontaneously waited upon Monsieur Le Grand, commissaire de marine, unattended except by a woman as a guide to his house. This gentleman received me with great civility, and mistaking me for the commander of the French flotilla, complimented me upon the capture, conversing with me some moments under this illusion, until I undeceived him, which did not abate his attentions. I mention this circumstance, merely to characterise the honourable treatment I at first received. Of the favourable impression received of me at Auray, and the consequent attentions of the inhabitants, the mayor's letter to me offers the best evidence. I must, however, notice a circumstance that happened at this place, as the energetic conduct I was forced to adopt to save an innocent man's life may, in some measure, have been the cause of the prefect of Vannes' ill humour, and have given rise to the falsehood and impertinence contained in his letter to the grand judge concerning me. A paragraph will be noticed in my official letter, respecting a pilot, inserted there merely to serve as evidence

in the poor man's favour, in case the letter should fall into the enemy's hands. The circumstance is perfectly true as it is related. This man, being found on board my brig after the action, was put in irons by the French officers, and intended to be tried for his life; but, upon my proving his perfect innocence, to the satisfaction of M. Le Tourneur, through the testimony of the lieutenant, whom I had ordered to bring him by force on board, he was set at liberty: at Auray, however, I was informed by an officer, that the pilot was then under trial before a military commission, and would be immediately shot. There had been a flippancy in this man's conversation, that I had previously found it necessary to check, as he repeatedly declared he was acquainted with me, had seen me on board some vessel where I had never been, and almost insisted that I was a Swiss: but, upon this occasion, I felt it my duty to proclaim the pilot's innocence, and seriously and formally to place it upon this officer's responsibility to prevent the execution, as he was acquainted with the fact; and finding that he discovered no disposition to interfere, to state the truth to the commission, I declaimed against the injustice of the proceeding, and threatened to pursue, as long as I lived, the authors of so atrocious a crime, and publish their names throughout Europe, coupled with all the

circumstances of their infamy. I have reason to believe that my conduct alone saved the man's life, although it is probably the cause of some part of the persecution I have suffered, and which, on that account, I do not in the least regret.

" Hearing the name of Julien mentioned soon after my arrival at Auray, and, upon inquiry, that he had been in Egypt, I was naturally induced to express to the mayor and others my desire to see a person I was acquainted with. On the road to Vannes he became the subject of conversation between me and the officer commanding the escort, to whom I repeated my wish to see the prefect, and I was actually presented to him at my own request. He received me politely as an old acquaintance, invited me to pass the evening with him, as he expected company; and he even carried his pretended civility so far as to express his wish that I should dine with him the next day, provided I did not proceed upon my journey at an early hour. The fatigue of the journey, increased by the inflammation of my wound, alone prevented my being of his evening party. On my return to my inn, I found myself closely guarded by a perpetual sentinel in my room, and one at the door of the house; and observed, with regret, that the honourable treatment due to a prisoner of war was

suddenly changed for that of a detestable inquisition. I was sent for the next morning by Mr. Julien, who, in the presence of the general commanding the department, had the effrontery to tell me, that for my better accommodation, on account of my wound, he had determined to send me to Paris by the diligence: but upon my declaring that it would be painful to me to quit my brave officers and seamen, with whom I preferred bearing the fatigue of the journey, in such a manner as to show that I was not the dupe of his artifice, he no longer dissembled his sinister motives, but told me that it was his intention to afford his government an opportunity to obtain information from me respecting conspirators and assassins which he said I had landed upon the French coast, and concluded by saying, those persons would probably wish to claim my acquaintance. I replied, that as I owed no account of my services to any authority but my own government; I would not answer any questions touching them, or give the least information to my enemy; that the adoption of any measures of rigour towards me would not, in the least, forward the end he professed to have in view; and I warned him not to depart from the customs of civilised nations, in their treatment of prisoners of war. Far from mingling with the crowd, or

shrinking from public notice, to pass unobserved, as he falsely and basely insinuates, I was known to several naval officers at Port Navalo, the place we were first conducted to after capture, and I was everywhere in evidence at the head of my officers and ship's company, to support, encourage, and comfort them in misfortune, as it is the duty and practice of British officers.

"As the prefect Julien's letter before alluded to has been made an official document, given to the world as a sort of *pièce d'accusation*, to shed a colour of justice over the barbarous treatment I have received, I shall give it at length, from which, contrasted with the above description of my interview with him, and of the circumstances which led to it, it will plainly appear that he was insensibly drawing his own portrait, while he pretended to delineate mine; and that he scrupled not, even at the sacrifice of truth and honour, to flatter a known and puerile foible of his master, in attributing to the tutelary deity or fortune of Buonaparte my capture and rencontre with him, which is readily accounted for by natural causes, without the necessity of recurring to the aid of occult influence, or supernatural agency. The prefect, no doubt, imagined that the tide of his affairs was at the flood, and, seizing the golden moment, he'd swim gaily on to for-

tune, and no more remain in shallows and in penury."

" *Le Général de Brigade Julien, Préfect de Vannes, au Grand Judge, Monsieur Reynier,* 24 *Floréal,* 14 *May,* 1804.

" Ayant appris que les officiers et l'equipage d'une corvette Anglaise prise, il y a peu de jours, par nos chaloupes canonnieres, passoient à Vannes pour se rendre à Epinal, je fis demander le capitaine dans l'intention d'obtenir adroitement de lui quelques aveux ou quelques renseignemens sur les traitres qui pouvoient le servir sur la côte, ou sur les complices de-la conspiration qui auroient pu se sauver à son bord et de-là passer en Angleterre. Je m'attendois peu à trouver dans le capitaine un personage assez important: c'est Mr. Wright, qui a jété Georges, Pichegru, et complices sur la côte de Dieppe; je l'ai beaucoup connu en Egypt, où il etoit Lieutenant de Sidney Smith, et chargé par le commodore de toutes ses negociations avec l'armée Francaise. J'ai pensé que ce Mr. Wright pourroit faire des révélations utiles, ou au moins déclarer, pour mettre sa responsabilité à l'abri, que c'est par ordre de son gouvernement qu'il a vomi sur nos côtes cette bande d'assassins, et fournir ainsi une nouvelle preuve

authentique de la participation du cabinet Britannique à cette atrocité. J'ai donc cru devoir vous l'envoyer de suite par la diligence, et sous l'escorte de la gendarmerie, en recommandant toutefois d'avoir pour lui les égards dus à un prisonnier de guerre.

" Mr. Wright est le même qui échappa du Temple, il y a quelques années, avec Sidney Smith; il est très fin et rusé, ennémi fanatique des Français, assez vain pour se croire destiné à jouer un rôle, insolent tant qu'il croira que la position le met à l'abri de tout danger, mais qui pourroit foiblier si on le plaçoit dans l'alternative de mettre authentiquement sa mission sur le compte de son gouvernement, ou de passer pour un conspirateur non avoué, et dès-lors justiciable. J'ai cru devoir vous soumettre ma manière de voir a cet égard. Il partira ce soir par la diligence de Rennes, et arrivera à Paris presque aussitôt que ma lettre; il est accompagné d'un très jeune neveu et de son domestique, que je n'ai pas cru devoir séparer de lui. Quoique j'ai voulu lui cacher le motif de la mesure extraordinaire que je prenois à son égard, il n'en a pas été la dupe, et j'ai lieu de croire d'après la conversation que j'ai eu avec lui, qu'il a d'avance étudie son rôle, et qu'il est decidé à garder le silence, s'appuyant sur le principe qu'il ne doit compte de ses operations militaires

qu'à son gouvernement. Au reste, de quelque utilité qu'il puisse vous être, ou quelles que soient les mesures que vous prendriez à son égard, j'ai pensé qu'à tout evenement il seroit intéressant de vous envoyer un homme qui a joué un rôle dans l'affreuse conspiration qui vient d'alarmer toute la France, et que la Providence, toujours propice, afin de donner à Buonaparte un nouveau témoignage de sa surveillance, semble avoir jetté sur la côte du Morbihan, où son batiment bien armé a été pris par de simples batteaux, et lui-même reconnu dans la foule des prisonniers, parmi lesquels il auroit resté confondu dans tout autre endroit que celui-ci.

" J'ose esperer, Citoyen Ministre, que vous approuverez la mesure qui j'ai prise.

" J'ai l'honneur de vous saluer.

" JULIEN."

Captain Wright thus describes the treatment that he experienced at Paris :—

" Conducted by two soldiers, one by my side in the carriage, and the other upon the coach-box, I arrived in Paris after ten days' painful journey, accompanied by my little nephew and my servant, whom Julien had permitted to go with me. The agitation of the journey had extended the inflammation of my wound to the bladder, and pro-

duced an excruciating strangury that had nearly forced me to remain at Haudan, near Paris. In this situation, on the morning after my arrival, I was transferred from Real's police office to the Temple, and suddenly conducted, under a guard, before Judge Thuriot, presiding at a court of inquisition, attended by numerous secretaries, and surrounded by a military guard.

"This man's countenance and brutal demeanour brought to the memory the savages, who, issuing from the hotbed of the violent passions, the South of France, at a too memorable epoch of the late disgraceful revolution, rushed upon Paris to massacre thousands of innocent victims confined in its corroding prisons, without trial or even examination. He appeared, like another Jefferies, panting for blood, and cumulating insult, artifice, falsehood, and menace, to disconcert, betray, and intimidate the weak or unwary.

"To his first questions, 'my name, profession,' &c, I answered, that being taken in arms, I had perfectly satisfied the military men to whom I surrendered, upon all these points; that as this novel mode of proceeding was in direct hostility to received principles, and the practice of civilised nations towards their prisoners of war, I was determined not to give it the least sanction by my

acquiescence, and should therefore decline answering any questions.

" A pretty animated conversation ensued, upon general principles, the law of nations, and customs of war, in which he very indecently loaded my government and country with the most unjust and gross abuse, and concluded by declaring, that the laws and customs of France alone should be applied to me. Waiving what immediately concerned my government, whose defence I observed it was unnecessary for me to undertake, as it was fully competent to justify its own measures, and would, no doubt, prove to Europe the falsehood of these aspersions, I pointed out to him the injustice of applying to me the laws of France, which I was totally unacquainted with, to which I owed no obedience, and would yield no submission; and confining myself within the sacred character of a prisoner of war, claiming personal inviolability in virtue of the law of nations, I denied the competency of any authority in France to interrogate me, and again declined answering any questions. This disappointment of his hopes increasing his brutality, and his rage getting the better of all judicial decorum, he had the insolence to couple me with persons he called conspirators and assassins, employed by the

British government; and declared he would force me to answer, or send me before a military commission, to be instantly shot as a spy, if I persisted in my refusal. To this I answered, with a mixture of indignation and contempt, that I had never been afraid of my enemy's shot, that my person was in his hands, and he might do with it as he thought proper; but no power on earth should force me to betray my king and country, or dishonour myself. Finding at length that he was prepared for every violation, and, lest my total silence should, in case of my becoming a probable sacrifice to my principles, favour an induction of criminality, which this government would not fail to propagate for its own justification, I determined to leave behind me, consigned to the records of this country, such a statement of the battle in which I was overpowered, as would establish my claim, and that of my officers and ship's company, to the honourable treatment due to prisoners of war. With this view, I particularly described the action; and entirely confining my replies to what related to it, whenever he interposed, as he often did, any subject foreign to this, I referred him to my former answers, declaring my resolution not to reply to any questions of such a nature, either negatively or affirmatively. He strongly urged me to acknow-

ledge having debarked conspirators and assassins in France; to recognise thirty or forty persons, who were confronted with me, and of whom he as falsely as impudently asserted, previous to their appearance, that they had all acknowledged having been landed by me, under orders from the British cabinet, for the purpose of murdering the first consul, overthrowing the government, and creating a civil war in France. I replied, that I would not recognise any person whatsoever that might be confronted with me; and should the whole emigration of France be brought before me, I would not acknowledge ever to have seen one, though I might have known many of them; that, ignorant as I was of the precise object of this extraordinary and obviously sinister proceeding, which I demanded to know, but was refused to be told, I would make no answer that could have even the remotest tendency to commit any unfortunate men; and he need not, under such circumstances, expect anything from my mouth that might, under his interpretation, attach delinquency to myself. I rejected, with indignation, those horrid imputations, and felt it necessary to exhibit the mayor of Auray's letter, in proof of the humane principles which governed my actions. With respect to my orders, I declared that I had been wherever they had led, but I

would render no particular account of them to the enemies of my country. I was quite indifferent, I told him, as to what others might be described to have said of themselves or of me, and my conduct should be regulated alone by my own ideas of honour and rectitude; being in the presence of my enemies, I had reason to suspect the purity of their intentions, and should of course be upon my guard against their treachery.

"Of the persons confronted with me, three only said they knew me to be the captain who had landed them in France: two of these were suborned witnesses, who had been threatened with death if they did not affirm they knew me, and were screened from the effect of prosecution for having, under this menace, consented to give the evidence required: the third, in a letter to Real, afterwards explained away the whole force of what had been stated as his deposition, by asserting, that, far from declaring I was the captain of the ship in which he came from England, he meant to say, merely, he had been acquainted with me in London. This examination lasted almost five hours, until I was nearly exhausted by the fatigue of six days' journey, an increasing inflammation, the great heat of a close and crowded room, and the ebbs and flows of con-

tempt and indignation excited by a succession of insult and provocation.

"It is necessary to remark, that Thuriot directed the secretary to commit to writing such parts only of this examination as suited his particular purpose, entirely omitting his menace to send me before a military commission, or my answers, which, on the one hand, would expose his departure from principle and decorum, or, on the other, might leave some favourable impression of my character and conduct. But, incorrect and mutilated as the written examination was, I thought proper to subscribe my name, as it really contained a narrative of the battle, and demonstrated the claims of myself and my people.

"General Savary, whom I had spoken of to the gendarmes during my journey, and expressed a desire to see, came to me soon after I was dismissed by Thuriot. After a vain attempt to draw from me some avowal injurious to the unfortunate men before mentioned, he endeavoured to irritate my feelings, to throw me off my guard, by an unjust and ungrateful attack on my friend Sir Sidney Smith, to whom thousands of his countrymen are under lasting obligations; but he managed this so clumsily, that in condemning my friend's politics as detestable, his heat be-

trayed him into an unwilling eulogium on Sir Sidney's private character. Finding me very unyielding, and quite prepared to support the public and private character of my friend, he shifted his ground, and pointed his attack at Mr. I. Spencer Smith, to whom he seemed resolved to give no quarter. He brought to my mind the fable of the wolf and the lamb, who, having proved his own innocence to the savage beast, was still doomed to expiate the faults of some remote part of the family. He vainly boasted of having formed his judgment of Sir Sidney Smith in two days; and I must confess it bore the stamp of a very hasty judgment. After menacing me, and threatening Sir Sidney, as well as other British officers who should be found equally devoted to the service of their sovereign and their country, he had the folly and atrocity to declare, "Nous ne ferons plus la guerre aux Anglais honorablement et loyalement, mais nous sommes déterminés à leur faire tout le mal possible, par tous les moyens imaginables." To this I replied, "Dès que vous me faites cet aveu, il faut prendre son parti:" he quitted me, saying, "Vous pouvez m'ecrire:" but as his conduct had left an impression upon my mind extremely unfavourable to a military man, I entertained not the

least idea of having any further communication with him.

"I was immediately locked up in an upper tower, guarded for about a week by a sentinel in my room, who was relieved every six hours: my nephew and servant were separated from me.

"Two days after the first examination, I was again conducted before Thuriot, who recurred to the same artifices, falsehood, and insult, through the course of an equally tedious and tiresome '*interrogatoire*,' under which I several times dozed in my chair; but changing the terms of his menace, he declared that I should be considered as a member of the conspiracy, and be tried for my life; coupled, he said, with conspirators and assassins, whom I had voluntarily landed in France, unauthorised by my government, who would disavow me, and to whose protection I could have no claim. I told him it was not difficult to answer him victoriously; repeating, that in the whole course of my services as a captain of the British navy, I had acted under orders which were ever eminently humane; but not being responsible to my enemy, I should decline entering any further into particulars: satisfied that I had honourably performed my duty, I was ready to meet the very worst conse-

quences of it, and felt no apprehension of being disavowed by my government. I was again confronted with many persons whom I refused to recognise, and declined to answer any questions concerning them. As a last experiment, Thuriot affected to suspend over my head, *in terrorem*, a criminal prosecution, for having formerly escaped from the Temple, by means of a supposititious order for transferment. But I suffered nothing to warp me in the least from the line of conduct I had early prescribed to myself, and which is as follows:—Deprived, as I was, of counsel, or communications of any kind; secretly immured, without access to any information of what had already taken place, or was even intended, with regard to the unfortunate but respectable men I was coupled with; equally ignorant whether I was to be shot as a spy, arraigned as a criminal, or exhibited as a witness, and brought from my cell, occasionally, as part of the mechanism of the political tragedy then getting up for representation, I determined generally to withhold all information which the enemy should appear solicitous to obtain; to recognise no person whatsoever that should be presented to me for that purpose; to decline making any declaration that could, even remotely, implicate others; and finally, to refuse to

answer any question not immediately connected with the description of the battle in which I was taken. Thuriot, having completely failed in all his efforts, wound up his labours by saying, 'Il est donc inutile de vous interroger;' to which I readily replied, 'Parfaitement;' and was recommitted to secret confinement. My nephew and my servant were also interrogated by Thuriot, touching my services for some years back, my family and connexions, my nephew's family, &c., with an indelicacy that, I believe, has no parallel; and, I have reason to believe, with a view of serving the purposes of the police, through the medium of spies which this government entertains in England, hanging upon the skirts of society, to pick up and report private conversations. A few days after, my nephew was permitted to be with me.

"Considering it beneath the dignity, and inconsistent with the manly character of a British officer, to cover his personal responsibility by fable or artifice, I imagined no tale of deception, I disdained using the least prevarication, and stood alone upon the ground of the incompetency of the power that wished to subdue me to its authority; refusing to declare, either negatively or affirmatively, whether I had formerly been confined in the Temple, as had been proved be-

fore me by the evidence of many; and having reason to apprehend that my recognition of the persons who gave the evidence might become ground of prosecution, or persecution, against them, I equally declined saying whether I knew them or not. After some time the perpetual sentinel was withdrawn.

"In the course of the week, General Savary, accompanied by two superior officers, repeated his visit. He seemed disappointed that I had not written to him: he gave me to understand that my case was very critical, and insinuated a menace. I told him, with marked contempt, that it was impossible, in justice, to refuse my claims as a prisoner of war; but if the enemy must have a British victim to grace a triumph, I was ready to shed my blood for my sovereign and my country, but never would betray them, or sully my honour. He then changed his ground, saying, 'Je sais que vous ne craignez pas la mort, mais vous êtes déshonnoré dans toute l'Europe; l'on vous regarde comme complice d'assassins, votre réputation est flétriée.' I replied indignantly, that my reputation was not in the power of my enemy; it was in the keeping of my country, and of my friends, who, being well acquainted with my character, would defend it; many of his countrymen had ample reason not to

be ignorant of it: it could not be tarnished by anything that fell from his mouth, and I was not then in a situation in which an honourable man would permit himself such observations. That the calumnies it might be the interest of my enemies to circulate, would yield under the manifestation of truth, which could not long be concealed; in the mean time I was perfectly indifferent to them whilst I retained an approving conscience, as they would not be believed by those whose good opinion I valued. He remarked, that the mere approbation of my conscience was not enough; to which I replied, it was quite sufficient for an honest man. He attempted to wrest from me some declaration touching the nature of my orders, and asked me where they were. I told him I would give him no account of them, farther than that they had been destroyed, as my duty dictated. He insinuated a pretended doubt of my being an Englishman, or a British officer.

"Ridiculing this folly, I declared I was born in Ireland, and showed him my uniform: but he remarked, that was no proof of my being a British officer, for the brigands I had brought from England had uniforms. I replied, that I had no connexion with brigands, and that my title to the uniform I wore was derived from the commission in my pocket. He now attempted to

pass some compliments on my personal character, but glancing, at the same time, some unjust censure on the national character. I rejected with disdain all praise that was offered at the expense of my country, whose reputation, I affirmed, was far superior to that of his country, for enlightened humanity. He appeared to regret the indecorum of his conduct, and begged this altercation might cease, on perceiving that it tended to his discomfiture, instead of humiliating or disconcerting me, as he intended. I readily agreed, reminding him, however, that it did not originate with me, and that I had been reduced to the necessity of repelling an indecent attack. Foiled in all his attempts to throw me off my guard, he at length suddenly said, with great affected emphasis, 'Tenez, Monsieur Wright; si j'étois à votre place, je montrerois encore plus de caractère que vous n'en montrez même, car je dirois, oui, c'est moi, qui les ai debarqués:' to which I replied, calmly, 'Ce n'est pas de son ennemi qu'un officier Anglais doit recevoir des leçons sur ses devoirs.'"

Captain Wright was then summoned to appear as a witness against certain persons accused.

"In a few days after, I was brought down from an upper turret to a better apartment, and my servant was permitted to attend me. On the

first day of the trial I was taken to the *guichet*, where a messenger was waiting with a gendarme to conduct me before the court, in conformity with the summons I had rejected. I repeated my verbal protest, exposed my reasons, asserted my rights, denied the competency of the court, claimed the law of nations and customs of war, and refused to accompany them. The messenger then told me he had orders to use no violence, and to treat me with respect, and begged me to address my protest in writing to the president. This I refused, upon the ground of having nothing to do with the court or the president, either immediately or remotely; assuring him, that neither violence nor civility should induce me to do a voluntary act of the nature of that required. Upon this he left me, to make his report; but returning some time after, accompanied by an officer and guard, he announced his having positive orders to take me before the court by force, if it was not to be accomplished by gentle means. The officer made the same declaration, entreated me not to place him under the necessity of recurring to violence, which he wished to avoid, and pointed out how ineffectual the resistance of one unarmed man must be against his guard. Having formally repeated by protest against this violation of the law of nations, and feeling

that I had done my duty to my king and country, to the utmost of my power sustained my honour, and satisfied my conscience as a private man, I declared that, under compulsion of superior force, my appearance before the court must be quite involuntary, and that nothing should compel me to give any evidence whatsoever. I was then conducted to the court, and after hearing the act of accusation read, which occupied the whole sitting, I was remanded to my secret confinement, without having been examined; notice being given me, that on a future day I must re-appear, to undergo an examination. In the mean time, my officers, including two very young midshipmen, after having been threatened with torture, I believe at Real's police-office, as will appear by Lieutenant Wallis's letter, were brought to the Temple, and put under secret and solitary confinement, and were again examined by the keeper's son, who took a minute of their answers. In a week after my first appearance at the criminal court, I was again forced to appear, as had been announced to me, after formally protesting nearly in the same manner I had done before.

"I was for some time left in an antechamber, where the witnesses were collected: these, being for the most part what are technically denomi-

nated *témoins forcés*, may be considered as such in the most literal acceptation of the phrase, for they were describing to each other the different kinds of torture that had been applied to them, to extort confessions contrary to the truth, and against their consciences, for the purpose of making the public believe in a plot of assassination, of which the non-existence cannot perhaps be better proved, than by the circumstance of the government having totally omitted that charge in the official indictment, causing it to be published throughout the provinces, and using it in all the preliminary proceedings, as an engine of the inquisition, to intimidate the weak and unwary, and attach some popularity to measures that were everywhere reprobated. Some of these poor people had their thumbs screwed together by the cock of a musket, operating as a vice, while gunpowder was placed upon their nails and fired; others had burning coals, or hot embers, applied to the soles of their feet; the most shameful violence had been used to others; all had been threatened to be shot; the houses of many had been rifled, their furniture destroyed in search of written evidence, and their families put to the rout. All these atrocious acts the government agents were charged with in my presence, and in that of fifty soldiers, some of whom, having been

actors in the inhuman outrages, denied a part, although much the gravest part was still re-asserted, and remained undisputed; and, from what I and my officers have experienced, there remains not the least doubt in my mind of the facts maintained. On leading me into court, the messenger informed me that I should be tried for my life, with the other prisoners, if I should refuse to answer the questions to be put to me, or to confirm my examination before Judge Thuriot: to this I replied: "Soyez persuadé que je n'en ferai rien." By this menace, I first discovered the use intended to be made of the written interrogation I had signed; and the comfort I immediately felt reflecting upon the conduct I had prescribed to myself in the earliest stage of this painful and delicate business, and which had strictly regulated all I had said and signed, tended greatly to support and fortify my mind under a spectacle as novel to me as it was imposing in itself; forced under implied delinquency into the presence, as it were, of a whole nation, nay, even of Europe; my name artfully and most unjustly connected with pretended plots of assassination; opposed as a witness against forty unfortunate men arraigned for their lives; the character of my country manifestly the primary object of the enemy's attack; and

not a little dependent upon the conduct I should hold, and the issue of the trial.

"It being observed that I walked lame as I was led into court, a chair was offered to me. Seating myself perfectly at my ease, with my leg in a resting posture across the opposite knee, I employed my eyes, previous to the examination, all round the hall, examining its structure, ornaments, and audience. The president, calling me by name, enjoined me, in a certain formula, to answer all the questions that would be asked me, without partiality, hatred, or fear. I replied, in French, that I had to observe, in the first place, that military men knew no fear; that I was a British prisoner of war; that I had surrendered by capitulation, after an action with a very superior force; that knowing my duty to my king and to my country, whom I loved, and to whose service I had devoted myself from my youth, and owing no account of my public services to any authority but my own government, I would not answer any one of the questions that might be put to me; that I claimed from him the law of nations, and the customs of war among civilised nations, those laws and customs which I had always extended to the numerous Frenchmen who had fallen within my power. The approbation, and the cries of silence from the vergers of the court,

alternately interrupting me, I several times suspended my speech until silence was restored, and resumed it always where I had left off, in order that the public might hear the whole of what I had to say, and to defeat the trick that I observed was about to be practised, to permit me to say only what might answer the enemy's purpose. After this, the interrogations I had undergone before Thuriot were ordered to be read: the secretary had not finished the preamble, when I interrupted him, by saying, I had a preliminary observation to make: the president granted me *la parole*, and I seized the opportunity of declaring aloud, that those writings were incorrect, as, amongst other omissions, they did not contain the threat to send me before a military commission, to be instantly shot as a spy, if I did not betray my government, and dishonour myself. The rage and agitation of Thuriot at this moment became extremely remarkable to everybody; he rose, and addressed the president with great gesticulation, interrupting me; I still insisting, and succeeding to express myself loud enough to be heard by the whole audience, notwithstanding the reading which at times continued, and at others was suspended, until Thuriot's continued instances with the president induced the latter to call aloud, iterately and precipitately, 'Faites

retirer les témoins.' During some of the interruptions, the secretary took a share in the debate, by telling me, first, that what I insisted on would occur in the course of the reading; but being contradicted by me, he then said it was in the second interrogation, which he would at length read; this provoked me to turn round and tell him, sternly and loudly, that he himself knew it was not in either, for he had written them both. The witnesses being ordered to withdraw, I descended two or three steps from my seat, then turned round, bowed to the man who had the civility to offer me a chair, then saluted the prisoners all round, and retired, bowing to the counsel and to the audience as I passed, without once turning towards the court. I have endeavoured to give an exact picture of this proceeding, to show how little the ends of substantial justice were the object in view; and how exactly it resembled a *pièce de théâtre*, where *les convenances* had been the chief object in contemplation, to deceive the public, and give a false colour to the scenery, that it would not naturally bear. I believe no European court of justice ever exhibited a scene of such base, criminal, and indecent artifice. I was remanded to my secret prison. There is reason to believe that my enemies regret ever having brought me into it. I have since

told some of their agents that there was no little *maladresse* in letting me into their secrets behind the scenes, where I contemplated all the traps and wires that set their puppets in motion: some have frankly acknowledged the fact, whilst others have almost blushed in silence; but they are a very unblushing tribe. It is impossible for me to feel towards such people any other sentiment than the most sovereign contempt; and after the base and ungenerous falsehoods they have published against my reputation, for public purposes, knowing them at the same time to be falsehoods, I must, at the expense of every private and personal consideration, manifest that sentiment on every occasion, by all the dignified means in my power.

"I find I have omitted to state, that the former keeper of the Temple, his wife, the present keeper, the emigrant before mentioned, as well as the suborned witnesses and others, were called upon again in court to recognise and to be recognised by me: they gave similar evidence to that they had previously given, but I refused to answer either negatively or affirmatively, when asked if I knew them.

"It is manifest that the enemy at first meant to make me the victim of my devotion to my country; but finding that the engine of his in-

quisition had failed to produce the materials he sought for, to give a colour of justice to so flagrant a violation of the law of nations, and apprehensive, perhaps, of the application of the law of retaliation to some of the present prisoners in England, he laid aside this intention, though he still hoped to wrest from me declarations that, being artfully woven into the plot of assassination conjured up in Paris, might be shown to the world as presumptive proof that it had originated with the British government, as a British officer would appear to have been employed to land in France the persons to whom the execution of it was assigned by the French government. He seems also to have expected some avowal that he might strain into an unnatural form, in some degree to justify the destruction of men as respectable for their public character as they were for their talents and energy, whose influence he was jealous of, as capable of thwarting his ambition, and of opposing his usurpation. Another desire, not less near his heart, was to hold up to Europe an ignoble example of disloyalty and pusillanimity in the conduct of a British officer, yielding under the terror of his brutality, to support the calumnies he daily causes to be published against the national character of England, and the reputation of its incomparable navy.

"In a conversation I had with a Colonel Curts, he (Curts) speaking of the conduct of the war in Egypt and in Syria, glanced a little censure at my friend Sir Sidney Smith (for whom, however, he professed profound respect) for joining the Turks at St. Jean d'Acre, when Buonaparte's army was advancing against that place. I observed, that it was quite legitimate to support our ally, and very natural to Englishmen to follow their enemy wherever he led them; that it would be very fair to ask what business had a French army making war in a neutral country, without permission of the sovereign: and I took occasion to tell him, that he had better not go too deep into that subject, for he was speaking of a man who was perfectly acquainted with all that had passed in Syria: he ventured to ask me what? I cited Buonaparte's *ordre du jour* to his army, accusing Sir Sidney Smith of having sent to Constantinople for ships infected with the plague, for the premeditated purpose of destroying the French prisoners he had captured, although he was actually sending them to France most humanely, at great expense, accompanied by his own officers. Colonel Curts acknowledging the truth of this, I immediately observed, 'I suppose he will not think proper to retract this calumny.' He then at-

tempted to retort some ridiculous charges against Sir Sidney Smith, which induced me to say, I was ready to avow and take upon myself every act of Sir Sidney's. Here this conversation ended, and considering the situation I am in, and the person I have to deal with, it will perhaps be thought that I went quite far enough; but I had in the rear of this fact such a *corps de reserve* as would have petrified him where he stood, if he had given me any very strong reason for bringing it forward. He said he had no doubt the minister of war would, from his report, make such a representation to the emperor as would operate a change in my favour. It was at this period of our conversation that I told him I would receive no favour or pardon, *je ne veux pas de grace, plûtot la mort sur le champ*; and I discovered that he wished to know that very circumstance. He professed, upon introducing himself to me, to have a mission of delicacy; and I will say that he did not depart from it; but I entered into all the reasons I had for réprobating the conduct which had been held to me. These are the most essential circumstances that have presented themselves to my recollection.

" I have omitted to mention a circumstance or two, which will strongly characterise the *régime* these barbarians kept me very long under. I re-

quested permission to have a flute for my amusement, which was positively refused: but during the time my officers were here, I procured one clandestinely, which has not been taken from me. I believe I mentioned (to you) verbally, that for ten months I was not permitted to obtain books for my amusement; on requesting that permission, through Fauconnier, a good many months ago, he told me I had nearly everything I could want; and casting his eyes on a few books my officers had left me, he replied, that I had already more than I could read. On another occasion, he told me, that they had a right to treat their prisoners of war as they pleased: this is the very answer made to Cæsar by Arioviste, king of the savage Celts, during the war in Gaul; and it is not, by many, the first proof I have had, that the present rulers of this unfortunate country derive their principles from the barbarians. I practise patience, and the burthen of my song is,—*dulce et decorum est pro patriâ mori.*

"Confining myself to the more important facts, as much as possible, I have omitted a multitude of minor, though not less characteristic circumstances, in order to avoid trivial details, which, though not destitute of their peculiar interest, derive all that I attach to them from the extraordinary conduct they contribute to eluci-

date. I have purposely forborne to scatter flowers as I went, to embellish the tedious path; and preferring the opinion that will result from the operation of an unbiassed judgment, I have avoided any attempt to excite an interest by an appeal to the feelings.

"I have now to declare, that perfectly resigned as I am to my fate, I am able to support the worst a barbarous enemy can farther intend against me; that the character of my country, and the reputation of the navy, are the dearest considerations to me, and that in no possible circumstances will I ever lose sight of them, but make my death, should I die in the hands of the enemy, as disgraceful to him as it will be creditable to my country; and the history of that country will afford me a thousand examples to imitate, from the catalogue of British martyrs, and that the only circumstance that could give me pain, would be to see my government, yielding to the unjust pretensions of the enemy, make any undue sacrifice on my account."

This concludes Captain Wright's own account of his imprisonment, and the persecutions to which he was subjected. All that remains to be gathered concerning his fate must be derived from the French authorities.

[Office-copy.]

Procès-verbal, ascertaining the suicide of the individual named John Wesley Wrigth, prisoner at the Temple house of arrest.*

In the year XIV, and on the fourth Brumaire, at ten o'clock of the morning, at our office, and before us, Pierre Dusser, commissary of police of Paris, Temple division, hath appeared the Sieur Louis François Fauconnier, concierge of the Temple house of arrest, and living at the same; who hath declared unto us, that François Savart, guardian of the said house, having entered the same this morning as usual, to visit the prisoners, and having reached the chamber occupied by John Wesley Wrigth, he found him covered with blood, and lying in his bed in a state of immobility, which should make it presumable that he died by effect of suicide; that in consequence, our attendance upon the spot was required, in order to proceed conformably to law, the same being duly recorded by our joint signatures.

We, the before-named commissary of police, in deference to the requisition hereinbefore stated, therefore personally went to the said house of arrest, and there found at the lodge the following gentlemen: Edme François Soupé, surgeon of the prison; Auguste Juste Ravier, captain of gendarmerie belonging to the department of the Seine; Louis Réne Pousignon, quartermaster of the select gendarmerie, and the before-named Mr. Fauconnier: all of whom immediately attended us

* This is the way in which they invariably spell his name.

into the building denominated the little Temple, contiguous to the Tower, where, having ascended into the second story, and entered a chamber which was opened by the before-named Mr. Pousignon, we there found, lying on a bed, a corpse of the male sex, appearing aged between forty and forty-four years, with brown hair and eyebrows, high forehead, gray eyes, nose well proportioned, mouth the same, chin projecting, visage oval, stature about one metre sixty-six centi-metres, which Mr. Fauconnier told us was that of the individual named John Wesley Wrigth, English captain, native of Cork in Ireland, and prisoner in this house since the 30th Floréal XII; which corpse had the throat cut, and held a razor shut in the right hand.

We then proceeded to take the evidence as here follows, in order to define, if possible, what are the motives which can have determined this individual to inflict death upon himself; viz.

Mr. Fauconnier declared, that yesterday at noon he saw the said J. W. Wrigth, to whom he carried the "Moniteur;" that he found him well, and calm; that two hours afterwards, Savart, the guardian, carried in dinner, and found him in the same state; and that finally this morning the last-named person came to apprize him (Fauconnier) of the event which has occasioned this our attendance on the spot; and this he declares to be all that he knows, and here signs with his hand accordingly, &c.

François Savart, guardian of the Temple, declares, that yesterday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, he carried in dinner to the said J. W. Wrigth, whose corpse is

lying on the bed in the room where we now are; that that person spoke to him in a customary way, and he did not appear at all wrong-headed; that this morning at eight o'clock he came to bring him a roll for breakfast, and having opened the window shutters, he cast his eyes on the bed, and there saw, with astonishment, the same individual covered with blood, and in a motionless state, which caused him to presume he was dead; that he directly re-shut the room-door, and went to make report of this event to Mr. Fauconnier, the steward; which testimony he here signs, &c.

We next called on Mr. Soupé, the surgeon, to examine the body, and to explain the causes of death, who, in compliance therewith, declares as follows:— "That on examining the corpse, he observes a transversal wound situated in the anterior and superior part of the throat, above the bone termed juxoid, in length about eighteen centi-metres, penetrating unto the cervical vertebra; which wound appears to have been effected by an edged instrument, such as a razor, which in its course has cut the skin, the muscles, the tracheal artery, the œsophagus, and the sanguineous vessels of that part, whence has ensued a considerable effusion of blood, and the prompt death of the said Wrigth." Which declaration the deponent hath signed, &c.

Here follows an inventory of his effects.

We, commissary of police above named, seeing that, by the preceding declarations, and surgical report of the state of the corpse, and the razor found in the right

hand, it appears demonstrated that the said Wrigth hath committed suicide with that instrument, and that the cause which prompted him unto such act was his reading the "Moniteur" of the third of this present month, which may have unduly exalted his imagination, and, in his condition of a stranger, led him to that act of despair, therefore find that there is no cause for more ample inquiry, and close the present inquest on the said day, month, year, and hour of one in the afternoon; and the said Sieurs Ravier, Pousignon, Fauconnier, and Savart, sign these presents with us, &c.

Extract from the Register of Commitments to the Temple House of Arrest, deposited in the Archives of the Prefecture of Police.

It appears in fol. 190 of the 4th register from the 3rd to the 4th Brumaire of the year XIV, that the Sieur John Wesley Wrigth, English captain, who entered this house by order of Monsieur Réal, counsellor of state, dated 30th Floréal, year XII, committed suicide in his chamber in the night of the 3rd Brumaire of the year XIV, by cutting his own throat with his razor; this suicide was ascertained on the morning of the 4th of the said month, by Messieurs Dusser, commissary of police of the Temple division, and Soupé, health-officer of the Temple house of arrest, according to the *procès-verbal* drawn up to such effect, which instrument bears date the above-said 4th day of the present month: he was interred the 6th day of the said month, as is ascer-

tained by the register of the municipality of the 6th ward.

Signed, PINAULT, the elder, clerk of the (Temple) lodge, and FAUCONNIER, keeper.

This extract delivered in conformity, the 30th April, 1816.

PORTIS,
Secretary-general.

Certified in conformity to the register of commitments,

LEMAITRE,
(L.S.) Keeper of the Archives and Depositaries.

Sixième Arrondissement, (Temple.)

Nos. des Inhumations.	Nos. du Reg^tre Municipal.	Dates de L'inhumation.	Noms et prénoms.	Ages.
1614	99	6 Brumaire an XIII. ou 9^bre 1805.	WRIGTH, JOHN WESLEY	36
	inhumé	au Cimetière	de L'Est ou Pere La-Chaise.	

Copied from the public register of the above-named burying-ground, February, 1816, by the guardian; the same then on duty, and at the burial.—N.B. In my presence and in the presence of Captain Arabin.

Villiers Cotterets, Jan. 23, 1816.

Sir,—Perhaps you will recollect that I forwarded to Vienna some particulars concerning the death of Captain With: but this packet seems to have had the lot of so many others, and did not reach its destination.

When I was quitting Paris, I called to present my compliments; and to leave you the address of Christopher, formerly turnkey at the tower of the Temple, as also your attendant at the period when you was shut up therein: not having been able to meet with him, to procure more ample details by word of mouth, I thought you might be glad to interrogate him yourself. Since my arrival at Villiers-Cotterets, not having received any answer to the letters which I took the liberty of addressing you, I know not whether you have seen this man.

Painfully affected by the details which Christopher gave me, my memory has faithfully collected and preserved them.

You know already, Sir, that Captain W. was condemned to seclusion until the return of peace, by the same tribunal which condemned to death George Cadoudal, &c. Messrs. De Polignac (Julius and Armand) partook of the same lot as your friend, who was placed under secret custody in the same chamber which he occupied during his first captivity (1797.) As Messrs. De Polignac occupied your lodging, you must know how they could correspond with your friend . . . they found means to convey the instruments necessary for his escape. Christopher was informed of this project by the captain himself, who (he says) had much confidence

in, and conversed often with him (Christopher) through the door. Mr. De Bourdillac, an emigrant condemned to be shot, and a Mr. De ——, were also in the secret; all went on well; the captain was going to be free; when one morning the police came, made a search, and found upon your friend cords, files, in short, everything that led to the conviction of a meditated escape: the whole was carried off, and even the money that was in his table-drawer, all in napoleons of forty fr. Our heroes, however, did not lose courage: they formed a new plan, which was about to be effectuated, when Christopher, going one morning to do the needful in the captain's chamber, was astonished to find him still in bed: he approached, and became seized with fright on seeing him pale as death: he drew the coverlid a little aside, and recoiled with horror at perceiving blood!—He hastened down to Fauconnier, the concierge, and said to him:—"Come up quick to Mr. With, I believe they have done the same to him as to Pichegru." Fauconnier treated him like an idiot, ordered him to hold his tongue, and walked quietly up, followed by a turnkey and by Christopher. He ordered him to uncover the bed: the captain was found lying at length; in the right hand he held a razor, pressed in such a way against his thigh, that there was an opening, but no blood. The concierge Fauconnier ordered Christopher to raise up the body; but when he moved it, he thought the head was going to detach itself from the trunk, having the neck cut unto the bone. (These are the expressions of Christopher.) Which, when the turnkey saw, he melted in tears, and let some expressions escape

which signified that it was not Mr. With who had thus put an end to himself. The concierge did not call in any medical man; but drew up a minute of the circumstance, and had Messrs. De Polignac, and two other prisoners, neighbours of the deceased, called; who declared that they heard this officer play on the flute at one o'clock in the morning, and as to the rest, they did not hear any extraordinary movement in his chamber: they signed the minute; and Christopher with his wife were charged to bury the corpse, which was interred without noise, or any other forms. Messrs. De Polignac were afterwards removed to the dungeon of Vincennes, where the brother last mentioned (Armand) remained eleven years, and did not come out until the king's arrival: Mr. De Bourdillac, on the contrary, was set at liberty almost on the spot, and sent back to his own country. This man, who gave himself out for a nobleman, was extremely intimate with the concierge; and every evening, after the general shutting up of the prisoners, he used to come down by stealth, and spent long evenings with him: such was their familiarity, that they thee'd and thou'd each other. Faucornier had always been employed by the police during the revolution: he was Mr. B.'s successor at the tower of the Temple; and in F.'s time, Pichegru, many other prisoners, (whose names I cannot recal to mind,) and lastly, your worthy friend, died assassinated. The turnkey who evinced such sensibility was put in arrest, taken to La Force, where he remained a month, and was at length turned out of his place. Christopher told me he believed that the man had died of want: as to himself, he obtained

that unfortunate man's place at the solicitation of Mr. De Bourdillac. But to return: Christopher was ordered to wash well away the blood which had flowed abundantly; to efface every trace of it under the bed; to keep the most profound secrecy as to the details; and simply to say, that the prisoner had cut his own throat with his razor; an article, it is to be observed, that he ought not even to have been possessed of, because no edged instruments are allowed to a prisoner when under the secret regimen. I learned this frightful event at the Magdelonettes, where I was detained: but I never, for a single instant, believed that this prisoner had committed suicide.

I believe, Sir, I have not omitted anything of this afflicting detail. Nevertheless, if you choose to see Christopher, he is a hackney-coachman, and lives *rue des Vertus*, No. 6.

I have the honour to be, &c.

B.

Sir Sidney Smith employed emissaries, and received from them several communications very much resembling in substance the one that we have just quoted. These documents, that the friendship of Sir Sidney and the activity of his agents procured, were both numerous and voluminous; but they all appear to strain to work out the preconceived opinion of assassination. On the other side, let us see what Fauconnier,

the gaoler of the Temple, himself says upon this transaction.

Were the prisoners who were at the Temple at that time to be questioned, not one of them would say that he suspects the captain to have been assassinated; for what other term can be given to such a death?

All knew it as soon as I did, and witnessed the arrival of the commissary to verify the death, but none of them had the idea that Buonaparte had ordered the captain's throat to be cut. If he had wished to get rid of the captain, which could be of little consequence to him, he could have had him transferred, with his unfortunate companions, as a prisoner of war, and very easily had him poisoned by the way. At this time the trial of Georges was ended, and the captain was detained as having escaped from the Temple in Floréal VI.

I know, for I was present, when the captain held a very animated conversation with the Duke of Rovigo (Savary). I have learned since that this conversation affected the captain very much, as when the Duke, with General Desaix, was on board the Tigre, commanded by Milord Sidney Schmit, on an affair of parley, Captain Reit behaved to him with the greatest attention and respect.

Two days before the unfortunate event, Mr. Paques, inspector-general to the ministry of police, came to visit the captain's chamber, and there found concealed a rope-ladder, and other implements which had been procured for him, to attempt an escape.

I am persuaded that this search was not made but on the information of some prisoner, who wished to ingratiate himself with the ministry.

Thus there is no doubt, that—1st, The reading the "Moniteur" announcing the victory at Ulm:—2dly, The effect of the very animated, and even, on the part of the captain, contemptuous conversation with the Duke of Rovigo:—3dly, The search of the inspector-general, Paques, in the captain's chamber, and discovery of the rope-ladder and other instruments proper for an escape, and which were taken away, and shown to the ministry:—and, 4thly, The inward conviction of the captain, that seeing he was not treated as a prisoner of war, (although he received the allowance as such, but as a prisoner re-imprisoned, having previously escaped,) his detention would be very long—were the real motives of the captain to his desperate resolution not to endure existence under so much anxiety.

Here is the whole truth!

Now comes a prisoner, at the end of ten or twelve years, who lodged in a room beneath the captain's, to give an account tending to accredit, and even to persuade us, that Buonaparte, through the medium of the Duke of Rovigo, has had the captain assassinated in his chamber during the night; and insinuates that at that time there were some masons employed at the Temple, and that one of them, that is to say, the foreman, having been seduced and gained over by the Duke of Rovigo, had committed the murder to satisfy the vengeance of a cruel Corsican.

The prisoner, to support his story, talks of a noise

that he heard over his head, and of workmen who did not work the next day, because the overseer, the man who, according to him, had given the fatal blow, not having returned, the workmen could not work for want of a master.

According to this version, which is not proved, we must answer, and that it is very easy to do, if we may be heard without prejudice.

The thing is impossible, unless, in regard to this assassination, (for what other term can we apply to this murder?) we can believe that it was Savard who committed it. But we are well convinced that that is false —we must then conclude that the captain, alone, has voluntarily committed suicide.

Savard, only, had the keys of the captain's chamber, and he alone attended him.

Let us come to the proofs of the impossibility of the prisoner's story.

The prisoner who, unfortunately for him, was then very poor, and had, moreover, a wife who had been recently brought to bed, comes, after a lapse of time, to give us a new edition of this in his own way, probably to extract some benefit; I know not whether he is now rich or at ease, but at that time he lived on the bounty of his comrades in misfortune, and by the labour of his hands as a tailor. His wife and the infant she suckled came every day to share his dinner. The Abbé Alary was the prisoner who assisted them most. If the fact had existed, he would have spoken of it to his wife, she would have broached it in Paris, and this anecdote would have soon been well known.

But let us resume.—All the prisoners know what strict attention was paid to the admission of the workmen at the Temple. No workmen could enter the court, nor go to work in whatever place, without being attended by a keeper, and especially if his business was in the interior of the tower. No workman could go out of the prison who was not attended by the same keeper, who was continually to watch him, in order that this workman should have no communication with the prisoners, by stealth. The two keepers, also, who had the charge of opening the three gates, the two wickets of entry, would not open them to workmen who were not accompanied by the attendant keeper, for fear of surprise, and if they were many, they went out together, and were counted.

The admiral knows the captain's chamber perfectly well, as it was the same that he himself occupied at the time of his detention in the Temple.

In the part forming the antechamber, there is a little nook, which would hold a bed; this recess received its light from a little window that looked into a side-room, which was occupied by the reverend father, Picot De Clos-Rivierre, an old Jesuit, and was then shut off by a door. It is in this recess, the prisoner asserts, that the assassin must have concealed himself. The captain being *au secret*, his door was fastened both with the key and with a padlock. Every day, at ten in the evening, the keepers made their last visit; counting the prisoners, and locking up all the rooms. Thus Savard would fasten that of Father Picot, then that upon the landing-place fronting the staircase—that of the captain

being always shut, on account of his "secret." The door of the recess, whither the assassin would have retreated, must have been also shut; but admitting that it was not, the assassin would still find himself shut in between three doors—1st, that of the captain; 2nd, that of Father Picot; 3rd, that of the staircase. Besides, at the bottom of the stair, which was dark, there was a door fastened outside with a very heavy key. This door opened upon the great staircase of the tower, which was itself shut in by a strong door, through which led to the great gate of the tower, that opened into the court, and was fastened on the inside.

Now, how could this assassin open and shut all these doors, and avoid the sight of everybody? How could the assassin clandestinely open the captain's chamber, without making a noise? How could he, without light, and without using very great force, seize and throw down the captain, who was a vigorous and resolute man? How, and by what charm, could he quietly lay him on his bed, and upon his pillow, and, without making an alarming noise, kill him like a sheep?—and with what?—with his own razor!

According to the prisoner's account, he heard a noise; this noise, which must have been extremely loud, would have been heard also by the prisoners lodged above, and by Father Picot De Clos-Rivierre, (who lay on the same floor, and who rose regularly every day at four o'clock in the morning;) and by the sentinel placed under his windows; yet nobody but he heard anything! If there was any noise, the captain defended himself, and he was very able to defend himself, and would not

suffer himself to be stretched like a sheep upon his bed, and timidly or cowardly present his neck to the assassin. There would have been scuffling in the room, blows given, blows returned: at length, if the assassin was the strongest, he must have thrown him down, cut his throat, and then placed him upon his bed, and upon his pillow, as he was found. But the boards, and all around his bed, would have been sprinkled, and even flooded, with the blood of the victim. Well! there was no blood but upon his bed and his pillow, where he was seen as he had fallen, after he had cut his throat.

If, without making a noise, and without waking the captain, the assassin was able to introduce himself and strike his blow, they could then have heard no noise. But he had then to seek for the captain's razor, for it was with his razor that he cut his throat. Then he must have cut straight from right to left, for the assassin could not have placed himself at the bedside in the recess, so as to cut from left to right, as the wound was made, and with a single stroke, as has been proved. Now, let us suppose, (as all suppositions are arbitrary,) that the assassin was able to effect his purpose without noise; the monster must quit the Temple, he must re-fasten the captain's door with the key and the padlock—he must open and shut the door on the landing-place, and all this without a light—he must open and shut the door at the bottom of the dark staircase; but this door would not open and shut on the inner side: he would have passed the door of the prisoner, who, being awaked by the noise that he said he heard, would have given notice to the sentinel. Again, he must open and shut

the door at the bottom of the staircase of the tower, which only opens and shuts on the outside: then how could he procure the key to open the great gate of the tower? That key was always shut up in the turnkey's room. How could he avoid the sight of the sentinel who was placed opposite? How could he pass the guard-house, to present himself at the wicket, where the turnkeys would have asked him how and why he was in the tower at that time? Besides, the two great dogs who watch around the tower would have strangled him. This man did, therefore, pass through the keyhole, or, as a bird, fly over the walls! In the morning, the turnkeys opened the doors, visited the prisoners as usual, and it was at this time that Savard took the two keys of the captain's chamber, and of the door of the entry on the landing-place, and, after opening them, perceived, on entering, the tragical end of the captain, and, after having shut the door, came to inform me of it.

There is much more to the same effect in this document, which appears to have been addressed to Sir Sidney Smith, and it concludes thus—

Captain Reid voluntarily killed himself.

"This is my opinion, and I sign it.

FAUCONNIER,
Cy-devant Concierge
of the Temple.

In opposition to this, we must cite a portion of one more letter addressed to the indefatigable

Sir Sidney. It is from the Abbé Alary, and, from the sacred character of the writer, should be received, if not with unlimited confidence, certainly with respect.

Although in relating to you the sad and deplorable death of our common friend, my heart is wounded afresh, I shall proceed to acquit myself of this painful duty. I shall not remark or dwell upon that which is already known to you, I mean the personal hatred Napoleon bore him, after you had withdrawn together from revolutionary tyranny, by escaping from the Temple, and especially after you had dimmed his star, and effectually repulsed him at St. John d'Acre. He accused him of having landed people in France, with an intention to attempt his life. Thus prejudiced, he poured upon him the whole weight of that resentment which his rage suggested against the English government and people. Involved in the criminal process, called "The Grand Conspiracy;" interrogated by wicked and corrupt judges urged to effect his destruction; it would have been promptly and openly effected, if the satellites of the more infamous butcher had not feared that your government would have avenged the law of nations so cruelly outraged. His death was from that time determined on; but they still vacillated on the means to be adopted. The firmness of his answers; his energy; a soul tempered in the school of adversity; the little hope of bending so firm a character, suspended their criminal audacity. But there were other motives for despatching a man whom they feared. Before the infamous execu-

tion of Georges Cadoual and his co-accused, these unhappy victims to the fury of a villain and his base instruments had permission to communicate with each other, and to take the air for a few hours in the day; but our friend was never allowed to participate in this act of humanity; he remained to the last moment of his life immured in his secret cell—the parallel made by the people of the firmness of your countryman, was singularly contrasted with the weakness of certain of our own implicated in that affair, who had not, and have not, preserved for themselves more than a name without character, and a show of firmness, which never extended beyond their resistance to the will and orders of the king. A number of *détenus*, victims of the tyranny of the modern Attila, were witness to a controversy which captain Wright had with Savary, then aide-de-camp to Buonaparte, who came to offer him, in the name of his master, his restoration to liberty, if he would confess that he had orders from the English government to land in France those whom they termed Georges' band, and whom the Royalists (with some few exceptions) regarded as brave and honourable gentlemen. Our friend, indignant at a proposition which clashed with that high sense of honour by which his actions were invariably directed, answered him loud enough to be heard by those without —"Tell your master, Savary, that I had you on board ship in Egypt—that I did you the honour to admit you to the same table, and was far from imagining then that you could ever allow yourself to make a base proposal to a man who has the honour of being a captain in the navy of his Britannic Majesty. Had you any native

military spirit in you, you would know that the sentiments professed by a soldier restrain him from making or accepting a dishonourable proposal, that must stamp an indelible stigma both on those who make it, and on those who listen to it without indignation." This animated conversation was heard by the *détenus*—personalities were not spared—Savary, ashamed, withdrew—and our friend, from that day, was treated with increased rigour.

Until then I respected him, to admiration, but without knowing him intimately, not having communicated but by some marked salutations. About this time there left the Temple a certain Scotchman named Smith, inventor of some filtering machines, a sensible man, whose education had been neglected in his youth. This Smith was honest, and extremely devout; our friend was more particularly attached to him, after having experienced the ingratitude of those to whom he had rendered essential services.

* * * * *

It was by the mediation of this Smith that our intimacy commenced. He had introduced me to the captain as a man the most firm and constant, as well as most capable of favouring and aiding his escape, (in the critical circumstances in which we were,) of which he always entertained a hope.

We lived in this intimate connexion as long as he existed, solacing our troubles in the bosom of friendship, reserving nothing secret from each other: I devoted to him every minute in which we could with any degree of safety converse *vivâ voce*, but much oftener by

writing. Every evening, while our companions in misfortune were engaged at cards, or in their other amusements, I communicated to him the public news, and especially the substance of the private information which we had learned from friends who, with permission of the minister of police, came to visit us at the lodge.

You, no doubt, recollect certain boastings of Buonaparte, of flat-bottomed boats which he had built with so much ostentation, and in such numbers, for his pretended descent and invasion of England. You know that there had appeared in the newspapers of the day, an article, "inviting him to this glorious expedition without delay, as, in a short time, he would be otherwise occupied,"—alluding to the coalition, of which England was the soul. You recollect the activity of Buonaparte, and the unforeseen imbecility of the Austrians, frustrating the effects of the alliance, by suffering themselves to be beaten at Memingen and Ulm, before the allies could succour them. It is to be observed, that at the period of the rupture, several persons attached to the suite of the ambassador, Mr. De Cobenzl, were arrested at Paris. Among others, a Mr. Müller, a captain of cavalry in the Austrian army, and a French emigrant of the environs of Strasbourg. My friend having previously served in the corps of the Chevaliers de la Couronne, army of Condé, of which I was chaplain at head-quarters, and having met in this place of misery, our friendship was renewed in a stricter union. He was soon informed of my intimacy with the captain, charged me with compliments which I reciprocally rendered, and they soon found means of conversing by a telegraph of

communication, which was the more easily effected, as Mr. Müller was lodged over the wicket, and our friend in the chamber of the Little Temple opposite; the chamber which you had yourself occupied; and I was the interpreter of any part of their mute conversation which was not quite intelligible.

After some time, we perceived, and especially after the interview with the infamous Savary, that there was no hope of our friend being restored to his liberty. It was then that he resolved to acquire once more by stratagem, what he could not obtain from the justice of his tyrants. To procure the means, I engaged Mr. Müller to lend him twenty-five louis, which I sent him by Messrs. Poupard and Mingo: he was ignorant from whence the money came; but, thinking it sent on my part, and aware of my straitened circumstances, from a sense of delicacy he refused it; nor could I overcome his repugnance, but by assuring him that Mr. M., who had lent him the money, was beyond the want of it: in a few days after, upon certain suspicions of the commissaries of police, they came to his chamber, plundered him of his little property, and left him scarcely provided with the necessary articles of use. He was sensibly affected by this new outrage; fearing the necessity of addressing or supplicating the satellites of this horrible government, to obtain the means of subsistence. To tranquillise him, and that my eloquence and friendship might produce in his soul the effect I intended, I replaced, myself, the twenty-five louis lent by Mr. M., which had been taken from him. Mr. Poupard, who lodged directly under him, put them in a purse attached

to the end of a string, which served to convey our daily correspondence.

In the evening of the next day he insisted on my taking two bills of exchange to insure our reimbursement, and gave me, at the same time, a voluminous letter in an envelope for a beloved sister that he had, of whom he often talked, as also of you, admiral.

I sent the bills and the letter to Madame la Marquise de L'Affalcique, (by birth Baroness de Mallecamp,) who knowing at that time Mr. Müller to be under rigorous arrest in his chamber, and knowing that they had rummaged many *détenus* in the interior of the Temple, as suspected of friendship and connivance, and dreading a domiciliary visit, burned the letter and bills, that she might not endanger herself by their being found in her possession.

In the meanwhile, the various events passing on the theatre of the world, interested and agitated us—we wished to be actors in the scene, and were plunged into dungeons; when, suddenly, Buonaparte raised his camp at Boulogne, and marched with a brilliant army into Germany. We followed its movements, and took a lively interest in them. Of the Austrian army opposed to it we were apprehensive, but we hoped that, corrected by their former disasters and even faults, they would not expose themselves without being supported by the Russians, their powerful auxiliaries. I confess that the taking of Ulm, Memingen, Augsbourg, and the defeat of that army before its junction with the Russian army, disconcerted us a moment; but if the French government took care to inform us of that defeat—on the other

side, we lost no time in procuring information of the defeat off Trafalgar, which took place on the same day as the capture of Ulm. The total annihilation of that combined naval armament, and the consequence of capturing nearly all the French and Spanish ships which had not been sunk, made our hopes preponderate against our fears.

He, indeed, could not restrain the enthusiasm inspired by the news, but that it was heard without doors, and our gaolers perceived it. He had even the imprudence to hum some couplets which he had just composed in honour of Lord Nelson, and of gratifying with them some *détenus*, who, more fortunate than himself, walked in the court, while he had been constantly, and was still, a close and secret prisoner.

That same evening we continued our correspondence by writing. The medley billets which he addressed to me, in answer to details which I had given him, were pleasing, without any tincture of melancholy; alluding to an event which had happened that evening, an event which might have caused us to be shot, if I had not boldly prevented its coming to the knowledge of our executioners—it was this: I had addressed to him an account much less favourable than that which they had sent us upon the success of Buonaparte in Germany. This account diminished astonishingly the glory of the little man, miscalled great; it turned him into ridicule, which neither he nor his adherents could ever pardon. It was Poupard who customarily transmitted the correspondence, while I mounted guard, to prevent suspicion or surprise. I had but seldom acted as the messenger,

and being less accustomed to it, I was consequently less dexterous. I gave notice, as usual, by striking two blows with the broom handle. He opened his casement window, dropped the string, at the end of which was the bag, and in it I put the despatch, pulled the string, which I immediately abandoned: it was also abandoned by our friend, and fell into the court at the moment when they were coming to shut our doors. I attempted a scheme, which succeeded: I said I was unwell, and without water, and requested they would open the door, and allow me to go and draw some. It was granted: at the instant that I cast the bucket into the well, I hastened under the window, and feeling about, happily found the bag and its contents, with which I immediately remounted and conveyed to him.

I was far (and I have no doubt he was the same) from foreseeing the sad event of the night; as no preliminary conversation—no presentiment had occurred to give any reason to presume it.

His custom was, to rise with the day; his windows opened, we gave and received the customary mute salute. I descended to give it: what was my astonishment!—his windows quite shut! I ran and applied to Mr. de Vaudricourt—to the good Vaudricourt, also his friend—sub-inspector of military reviews—one of those in whom he had the most confidence, and confidence well merited. He was as much surprised and alarmed as I, and added, what increased my apprehensions, that they had not been open all the morning; we suspected illness or indisposition. I went to inquire of those who occupied the apartment under him, who were also igno-

rant of his fate; but said they had heard some noise in his chamber during the night, as well as Messrs. Mingo and Poupard; but my fears were increased by the apostrophe addressed to them by the old Abbé, Mr. Bassinet, who lodged with them, saying, that they slept the whole night like marmots, but that he, an old man of eighty, had not been able to shut his eyes since an hour after midnight, so great had been the noise that had awoke him in the captain's apartment.

I related this discourse to Mr. de Vaudricourt; we went out, and walked to and fro much agitated, seeing the turnkeys sad and cast down. Mr. de V. called to one of them named Savard, and asked him "if Captain Wright was indisposed? he wished to go up to see him." The man, as he walked on, petrified with fright, said, "Well, they will not accuse me of having assassinated him." Judge of our painful astonishment—we were soon after but too fully convinced that he was no longer in this world. Passing and repassing, we saw parties of the police successively arrive to ascertain this strange event—they unfold paper, &c. Whether from indignation, or curiosity to know what had happened to my worthy friend, I went up, came down again, passed and repassed before the door without daring to enter: but the door being a little open, I was perceived by a secretary of the police office, I believe his name was Pacq: he invited me to enter: I bowed, and casting a look at the bed, saw my friend lifeless—but yet apparently not bloody. I inquired of those who were in the room, of a prisoner of state named Joseph, a gentleman of Boulogne-sur-mer, and was told that he

had cut his throat—that they had prepared a *procès-verbal*, and that I should go and sign. I again approached the bed—I saw the body as asleep; I raised the bed-clothes; uncovered him: saw his throat cut and bathed in his blood, still holding in his hand a razor shut. Filled with horror at the sight of this shocking spectacle, the blood froze in my veins. I made a motion to retire, when I was opposed by the police, who told me I must sign the *procès-verbal*. This I refused, and without hesitation, indignantly replied, "that the man who cuts his own throat does not shut the razor for the use of another." Stricken with my observation, and knowing well the stubbornness of a character that never bent, they allowed me to withdraw without any further opposition. Here, sir, is what I know and have seen.

All the state prisoners, at that time confined in the Temple, believed with me that he was assassinated—it was the general report. These particulars are better known to me by reason of our intimate connexion, but the times and the tyranny of our Attila have not allowed me the opportunity of giving these details sooner. Having been exiled in Vivarias after my release from the Temple, I could not quit it without an express permission of the police. This rigid exile lasted until the return of the king. Forced a second time to expatriate myself for serving the cause of my king, and yielding to those sentiments which only loyalty induced, I followed him to Belgium, and had the honour of paying my respects to you at Brussels—you desired of me the relation which I now present you, a relation which, not being

able to send you on your journey to Alost, as we agreed, I hesitated to send it you here, where Fouché was minister of the police, as I strongly suspected that man to have contributed to the assassination of our friend.

The truth still remains buried in a mystery that in all human probability never will be dispelled. We never can believe that Captain Wright slew himself. The refutation to the charge is in his own high and magnanimous character. He not only fought but suffered as a hero. He had not only the courage to act nobly, but to endure quietly. Moreover, he was eminently a good man—a man of principle: such a man could *not* be a suicide.

Was he the victim of a cowardly, detestable, and assassinating state policy? We think not. There were no adequate motives for it. It was too clumsily managed. Neither Buonaparte nor Fouché would have perpetrated an act so horrible so awkwardly. Where the evidence is so doubtful, let us not involve so many persons in the guilt of a base murder. How then did he meet a death evidently violent? There is no other solution to this very natural question than by supposing that he was sacrificed to private vengeance. This is our firm conviction.

All honour be to Sir Sidney Smith for the amiable zeal that he displayed in attempting to

elucidate this dark crime. We esteem him for the steadiness of his friendship, we applaud him for his intelligence and activity in endeavouring to rescue his companion in arms and in captivity from the opprobrium of a suicide, and even love him for mingling so much of the good and brave man with the great. In spite of some few foibles, he is a glory to his country, and should that country ever cease to think so, her own glory is on the wane.

When he had done all that was possible to rescue Captain Wright's fame from a taint, he proceeded to erect a monument over his remains, which lie interred in the cemetery of Père Le Chaise. The following is a description of it:—

The upper part of the composition is of a pyramidal, or obelisk form, on the plane of which are the letters D. O. M.; and underneath an urn, in basso relievo, with two weeping figures on each side, with torches reversed, as on the point of extinction. The base has also a figure standing on each side, with torches reversed. The whole of the base, and the pedestal of the urn, are divided into six compartments, into which the inscription is distributed, as follows:—

H. S. E.
IOANNES. WESLEY. WRIGHT.
ORTV. ANGLVS.
NAVIS. PRÆFECTVS. APVD. SVOS. EXTEROSQVE.
VIRTVTE. AC. PERITIA. CLARVS.
CVI. EARVM. RERVM.
QVÆ. AD. SVMMVM. GLORIAE. FASTIGIVM. FERDVCVNT
NIHIL. PRAETER. OCCASIONEM. DEFVIT.

CLARVS. EDITVS. ATAVIS.
GENVS. FACTIS. ILLUSTRAVIT.

IN. CONSILIIS. CAPIENDIS. SOLERS.
IN. EXSEQVENDIS. STRENVVS. AC. FORTIS.

IN. REBVS. SECVNDIS. MODESTVS. IN. ADVERSIS. CONSTANS.
IN. DUBIIS. PRVDENS. ET. SAGAX.

REBVS. ALIQVAMDIV. FORTITER. AC. FELICITER. GESTIS. TANDEM.
ADVERSIS. VENTIS. INTERCEPTVS.
ET. IN. LITVS. HOSTILE. DELATVS.
MOX. LUTETIAE. PARISIORVM.
IN. CARCERE. CVI. NOMEN. TEMPLVM.
NOCTVRNIS. CAEDIBUS. INFAMI.
CONCLVSVS. EST.
ET. DVRISSIMA. CVSTODIA. ADFLICTVS.
SED. INTER. VINCVLA.
ET. VINCVLIS. GRAVIORA.
ANIMI. FORTITVDO. ET. FIDELITAS. ERGA. PATRIAM.
VSQVE. INCONCVSSAE. PERMANSERVNT.
PAVLLO. POST. MANE. IN. LECTVLO. MORTVVS.
IVGVLO. PERFOSSO. REPERTVS.
PATRIAE. DEFLENDVS. DEO. VINDICANDVS. OBIIT.
V. KAL. NOVEMB. ANNO. SACRO. MDCCCV.
ÆTATIS. SVAE. XXXVI.

GVLIELMVS. SIDNEY. SMYTHE.
VETERIS. AMICITIAE. MEMOR
HOC. MARMOR.
PONENDVM. CVRAVIT.
ANNO. SACRO.
MDCCCXVI.

CHAPTER XVI.

Sir Sidney made a Knight Commander of the Bath—The Duke of Wellington invests him—Sir Sidney's speech on the occasion—Sir Sidney's remonstrance to Buonaparte.

TOWARDS the termination of this year, 1815, our officer was honoured, in a most particular manner, by his sovereign.

His grace the Duke of Wellington having received the gracious commands of his royal highness the Prince Regent of the United Kingdoms, through his royal highness the Duke of York, grand-master of the most honourable order of the Bath, to invest Vice-Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, knight-commander-grand-cross of the royal military order of the sword, with the insignia of commander of the aforesaid, his grace fixed on the 29th of December for the performance of the ceremony, which took place ac-

cordingly at the Palace Elisée-Bourbon, the knights-grand-crosses, knights-commanders, and companions being present, as also his grace the Duke of Richmond and the Right Honourable the Earl of Hardwick, both knights of the most noble order of the garter.

At six o'clock the commander elect arrived at the palace, and being conducted and supported into the presence of the noble duke representing the sovereign on the occasion, by the two junior grand-crosses Sir James Kempt and Sir Henry Colville; after the usual reverences in advancing, (the commander elect being already a knight, the usual ceremony of dubbing him as such was formally dispensed with,) his grace proceeded, according to the order of his royal highness the grand-master, which he first read, and invested the commander with the insignia of the order: after which his grace embraced Sir Sidney Smith twice most cordially, with every demonstration of the feelings of esteem and regard, feelings which the knights, grand-crosses, and commanders, many of whom had served in Egypt as his juniors in rank, also testified; and it certainly may be said to be a proud day for England when such a scene took place in the evacuated palace of Buonaparte, between these two British officers of the two services, one of whom first checked.

and the other of whom finally closed, the career of that ambitious chieftain.

The banquet being announced, his grace desired his excellency the British ambassador, Sir Charles Stuart, G.C.B., to conduct the new knight commander to the hall of the same, where the members of the order, including some foreigners of distinction, amongst whom were Don Michael Alava, General Muffling, and Count Demetrius Valsamachi, a nobleman of the Ionian Islands, were entertained most sumptuously in the usual style of the duke's elegant hospitality.

After the health of the King and Prince Regent had been drunk, the duke gave the health of "Sir Sidney Smith:" the company hereupon rose, and followed his grace's example in greeting the new commander with the most cordial acclamations. When silence was restored, Sir Sidney Smith rose, and addressed the company nearly as follows:

"My Lords, noble Knights, Grand Crosses, Commanders, and Companions!—I should not do justice to my feelings, were I not to endeavour to express them in returning you my thanks for the honour you have done me by this reception: at the same time, I feel I cannot do justice to them by any mode of expression I can make use of.

"The language of *compliment* must die on the lips of any man in the presence of the Duke of Wellington; first, from the inadequacy of all language to express what every man must feel when speaking of such a highly distinguished chief; next, from the recollection of the noble simplicity of his character which disdains it. It will, I trust, be readily believed, that I must be most truly gratified to be invested by a knight of such high renown and glorious achievements; and the more so in this *particular place*, and in an assembly of so many illustrious and highly-distinguished knights-commanders and companions. A combination of circumstances, which could only happen in the present times, and are mainly owing to the successful result of the battle of Waterloo. Noble and illustrious knights, I beg you to accept the expression of my humble thanks for the honour you have done me."

The Duke of Wellington having acceded to Sir Sidney Smith's request to be allowed to propose a toast to the company, he proceeded to say —"I beg leave to call to remembrance that this day (the 29th of December) is the anniversary of a re-union of illustrious knights of various orders, which took place at Vienna, where many sovereigns were present, and when the toast I shall have the honour to propose to you was drunk by them

with a manifestation of their conviction, that the object of it intimately concerned knighthood as such, in all nations. I beg leave to propose the health and deliverance of the *white Slaves in the Barbary States.*"

The toast was received with the most marked approbation, and drunk with the usual demonstrations thereof, by three times three regular and hearty cheers, when the company adjourned to the ball-room, preceded, on the indication of the Duke of Wellington, by the new knight-commander, supported by his Britannic Majesty's ambassador, in the same order as on entrance, where a brilliant assembly of ladies, English, French, Spanish, Russian, &c. &c., continued to increase till a late hour; his Royal Highness the Duke of Berry, the French, and the foreign ministers, were also present, and all joined in cordial congratulations of, and compliments to, the cosmopolite chieftain, president of the knights liberators of the white slaves in Africa; who, we observed, was decorated with the various orders of the nations he has contributed by his endeavours to release from the yoke of the former inhabitant of the palace where this extraordinary assembly was held; then a prisoner on the top of a rock in the Southern Atlantic. These circumstances reminded the Parisians of the prophetic inscriptions left by

Sidney Smith on the window shutter of the Temple prison, when he escaped, of which many copies were taken and are now again in circulation, and read with great interest since the accomplishment has taken place: we have been favoured with a translation, of which we give our readers a copy, the original having been in French, and respected by various successive guardians of the tower, till the Prince de Rohan, afterwards Duke de Rohan, subsequently a prisoner in that tower, removed it for its preservation, and we are assured he now possesses it.

"SIDNEY SMITH TO BUONAPARTE.

"Fortune's wheel makes strange revolutions it must be confessed; but for the term revolution to be applicable, the term should be a complete one, for a half turn is not a revolution; (see the Dictionary of the Academy;) you are at present as high as you can mount. Well! I don't envy you your fortunate situation, for I am better off than you; I am as low in the career of ambition as a man can descend; so that let fortune turn her wheel ever so little, and as she is capricious, turn it she will, I must necessarily mount, and you as necessarily must descend. I do not make this remark to you to cause you any

chagrin; on the contrary, with the intent to bring you the same consolation I have at present, when you shall arrive at the same point where I am; yes! the same point; you will inhabit this prison, why not as well as I? I did not think of such a thing any more than you do at present, before I found myself brought hither. In party wars 'tis a crime in the eyes of opponents for a man to do his duty well; you do yours now, and consequently you by so much irritate your enemies; you will answer me.

" 'I fear not their combined hatred, the voice of the people is declared for me, I serve them well:' that is all very good talking; sleep in quiet, you'll very soon learn what one gains by serving such a master, whose inconstancy will perhaps punish you *for all the good* you do him. 'Whoever' (says an ancient author, Pausanias Atticus) 'puts his entire confidence in public favour, never passes his life without pain and trouble, and seldom comes to a good end.'

" Finis coronat opus.

" In fact, I need not prove to you that you will come here and read these lines, because here you must be to read them. You will certainly have this chamber, because it is the best, and the keeper, who is a very civil good sort

of man will, of course, treat you as well as he does me.'

N. B. These lines having appeared in the Parisian papers in 1799, and having been put into Buonaparte's hands at Cairo, on his return from his unsuccessful Syrian expedition, where he was foiled and worsted by the writer of them, he exclaimed, '*It is very extraordinary;*' and on his return to Paris, fearing the accomplishment of the remainder of the prediction, after having procured through Regnauld de St. Jean d'Angely the sight of a copy in the hands of Baruel Beauvert, he forthwith ordered the building to be levelled to the ground.

After this display of his country's gratitude to Sir Sidney Smith, which became so much the more enhanced, as it may be said to have taken place almost in the presence of so many sovereigns, Sir Sidney had little else to do but to enjoy his richly-merited rewards, the universal admiration, and the approbation of his own mind, ever active in doing good, not only for his country, but for the whole human race.

He prosecuted with ardour his plans for the abolition of white slavery even after the destruction of the pirates' nest in Algiers.

We do not think that his noble intention was patronised so much as it deserved at the time. But there seems to have been a ruling Providence in this apparently mortifying result. Had Sir Sidney Smith's propositions been carried fully into effect, the Algerine insolence and rapacity would have been repressed, but we do not think that these barbarians would ever have been wholly reclaimed from their piratical tendencies.

Their measure of iniquity became full and intolerable, and they are now obliterated totally from the very maps, and exist only in history.

CHAPTER XVII.

Sir Sidney's exertions in favour of the white slaves—Letters from the various ministers of the European powers on the subject—Also from the consuls at Tripoli—Sir Sidney made admiral—A brief sketch of his character.

During all these proceedings, Sir Sidney Smith was actively engaged in bringing his plans to maturity for the promotion of his new order of knighthood, and from time to time produced and published papers in relation to it. To give the reader all these documents, would only needlessly swell out these volumes; and our omitting to do so is the more warrantable, as public events outstripped the exertions of Sir Sidney in making war against, if not in extirpating, the pirates.

They, in the first instance, received chastisement from the Americans, and afterwards Lord Exmouth gave the Dey of Algiers a lesson so

severe, that if the Algerines had only possessed but a small portion of the common sense allotted to humanity in general, their beautiful country would not now have been a French colony.

But a few of these documents we feel bound to give, as they evince the ardour and intelligence with which our hero prosecuted his designs, and besides, are very favourable specimens of his style of composition. But, in the first place, we shall give a few specimens of the manner in which Sir Sidney's philanthropic design was viewed by various persons high in office.

Letter from the Count de Vallaise, Minister of his Majesty the King of Sardinia, to Vice-Admiral Sir Sidney Smith.

Turin, October 5, 1814.

Sir! Admiral!—I am charged by his majesty the King, my august master, to express to your excellency the satisfaction which your letter, transmitted to him by the Baron de la Cainéa, afforded his majesty, and the gratitude with which he received the congratulations that you were pleased to offer him on the occasion of his return to his dominions on the continent.

The principles which influence your excellency in favour of the miserable victims of the negro slave-trade, are too conformable to the religion and sentiments which he professes, not to make him desirous to see your en-

terprises crowned with the success which they merit, and not to feel most happy if he can contribute to the result which you have in view, and in which all hearts, susceptible of the feelings of charity and compassion, concur with you in devoutly wishing.

The countless exploits by which Great Britain has rendered herself illustrious, and which will make the end of the eighteenth century, and the beginning of the nineteenth, as brilliant as it is honourable to her, are, in the estimation of the true friends of humanity, a title much less glorious to her than that of the abolition of the slave-trade, for which she has openly recognised one of the most consolatory precepts of the christian religion,—that which renders all men as so many brothers.

His majesty, therefore, charges his plenipotentiaries at Vienna to enter fully into these same views, whether for the abolition of the slave-trade, or for the suppression of the piracies of the Barbaric States, and commands me to make known to them your excellency's propositions, and his majesty's intentions thereon.

I congratulate myself, sir, admiral, on the opportunity which the execution of my sovereign's commands affords me, of offering to you the assurance of the very distinguished consideration with which I have the honour to be, sir, admiral, &c. &c. &c.

THE COUNT DE VALLAISE.

Extract from a Letter of his Excellency the Chevalier M. the Marquis de Rivière, his most Christian Majesty's Ambassador at the Sublime Ottoman Porte, to Sir Sidney Smith, Knight Grand-Cross of several Orders.

Epernay, September 16, 1814.

Most trusty Knight,—This letter will be forwarded to you by M. the Prince of Benevento, who, ever since my arrival, has employed his kind offices in my behalf in the most generous manner. The King has had the condescension to approve of the choice which he was pleased to present to him, and I am appointed ambassador to the Sublime Porte—an event which will a little derange our correspondence: but, as I have spoken to the prince of your philanthropic and noble ideas relative to the Barbaric States, he knows that you are in this matter the advocate of the christian, as you are of the negro slaves; he will converse with you on the subject, and has promised to cause instructions to be transmitted to me, in the event of my being wanted, previously to my departure for Constantinople. . . . . .

The conferences which you will have with the prince, who well knows that your plan embraces objects of incalculable interest to the morality of the whole world, may be the means of retarding or accelerating my departure. I shall expect to hear from you, and to receive his orders, before I set out for Toulon.

Letter of Prince Talleyrand to Sir Sidney Smith.

Vienna, Dec. 24, 1815.

I have read the letter which the Right Hon. Sir Sidney Smith has been pleased to send me for M. de Rivière: it shall be forwarded this day. I have recognised in it all the humane views which characterise Sir Sidney Smith, and which render him one of the most praiseworthy men of his time.

Extract of a Letter from the Marquis de Rivière to Sir Sidney Smith, Paris, November 3, 1814.

The prince appears to have imbibed your humane and noble sentiments. The evil is great; the remedy ought to be prompt and efficacious. I have collected what several consuls of respectability had told me. I sent the note to the prince, agreeably to your desire. It should seem that everything is at a stand at the idea of three viceroyships, (pachalics,) but the pashas sent by the Porte will soon shake off the yoke. . . . . .

The Porte could not alone, I fear, change the government of the three Barbaric powers, if the allied fleets should not second her efforts. I have not been to see you at Vienna, awaiting my instructions on this subject, and intending to proceed by sea. . . . . .

. . . . . I wait here for the decision of Prince Talleyrand. If the Turks are convinced that we are influenced by honourable and generous motives, without wishing to diminish their power, but, on the contrary, to

consolidate it, they will, I think, exert themselves with good faith. We ought upon this subject, my dear knight, to speak with an open heart, without any political reservation; the interests of humanity, of Christianity, to which we would give freedom, ought alone to influence our conduct, and the shackles of traffic ought to disappear. . . . . .

Extract of a Letter from M. the Chevalier de Revel, Governor of Genoa, to Sir Sidney Smith, dated Turin, November 9, 1814.

. . . . . Compassion for the blacks is worthy of praise; but there are other men, my dear admiral, who claim it against Africans more barbarous than the Europeans who carry on traffic in the former. Your stations in the Mediterranean have afforded you an opportunity of knowing the miseries of the christian slaves in Barbary. If the commercial interests of England be against it, the sentiments of the nation, and the conduct of the parliament, with respect to the blacks, do not leave any room to apprehend that they can form an obstacle to a measure which humanity and religion, as well as the knowledge and civilisation of the times demand. These principles impose upon the grand powers the duty of suppressing those infamous piracies; but I presume to affirm, that upon Great Britain, who has pledged herself, who has contracted the honourable and holy engagement, by occupying Malta, once the bulwark of Christendom, the obligation strictly devolves. The squadrons of the order protected the navigation and the

coasts of those nations which could not purchase peace from the Barbaric powers. Is not England charged with this protection? As to her ability to do so there can be no doubt. Her interposition has recently secured Portugal, Spain, and Sicily from the attacks of those atrocious pirates: Italy now implores the same boon.

During maritime wars, France having occasion for the navigation of the Italians, drives the corsairs from their shores;—she recals them on the arrival of peace, for the purpose of entering herself into possession of the coasting trade,—an occurrence which has taken place at the present as in former times. Those robbers have again made their appearance off the coasts of Italy, and very recently carried off some hapless cultivators between Nice and the Var.

I am persuaded that this cause, which so forcibly appeals to the humanity and glory of England, responsible for everything that is done on the seas, and still more particularly in this case, will excite your generous enthusiasm, and that you will be of opinion that, if England insists upon the other powers conforming to her principles with respect to the blacks, she will feel herself obliged to take upon herself the noble functions of the order of Malta, with the efficacy of her power.

Letter from the First Minister of his Majesty the Emperor of Austria.

Vienna, December 17, 1814.

The Prince of Metternich has received the note which Sir Sidney Smith, admiral of his Britannic ma-

jesty, has done him the honour to address to him, on the 13th of this month, and the documents which he has been so obliging as to communicate to him:—he has that of returning the subjoined, after having examined them; and reserves himself for a conference on the subject at the first opportunity.

The Prince of Metternich has the honour to renew to Sir Sidney Smith the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

Letter from Prince Louis Lichtenstein.

Vienna, January 30, 1815.

The undersigned has the honour of recommending the petition of Captain Felsch to M. the Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, praying that his excellency would have the kindness to contribute to the liberation of his brother.

Captain Felsch's Petition.

Vienna, January 10, 1815.

My brother, Francis Felsch, who is at this instant groaning under slavery at Algiers, in Africa, was enlisted in 1798, if my memory serves me correctly, as a drummer in the Huff regiment, now Archduke Louis's, No. 8. According to a letter (which I still have) from the said regiment, he was made prisoner on the 10th of April, 1800, on the summit of Mount Sette-Pannj, in Italy, and was compelled, although quite a youth, to enter into

the French Polish legion; he went afterwards into Spain, where he was forced, by hunger, to enlist, which is proved by a letter from Barcelona, under date the 27th of February, 1803, confirming that he was a sub-officer in the King's guard. I have not the least information of the manner in which he fell into the unfortunate and lamentable situation he now is, inasmuch as he does not give any explanation whatever on the subject in his letter, dated Algier, August 1, 1814.

The voice of humanity, no less than fraternal affection, enjoins me to attempt every expedient to restore this wretched young man to liberty, or at least to alleviate his afflictions, which are grievous.

Not being, by any means, in circumstances to pay a heavy ransom, I rely wholly upon the protection of the government, my brother being an Austrian subject, and the son of an Austrian soldier:—the claim is weak—he has another—he is a man—I, therefore, appeal to humanity on his behalf.

The following letter to the first minister of his majesty the King of Sardinia is from the pen of Sir Sidney Smith:—

Vienna, January 10, 1815.

Sir,—I beg leave to submit to your excellency, for the information of his majesty the King of Sardinia, a statement of the measures which I have taken, and of their progress towards the object so anxiously desired—the liberation of the christian slaves in Barbary, and the cessation of the depredations and outrages against

Europe, which continue to increase the number of those unfortunate and innocent victims.

1st. I have despatched couriers with instructions to my confidential agents and correspondents, in Asia as well as in Africa, to influence the native princes, who are equally aggrieved with the Europeans by those exotic robbers, and to engage them, in defending themselves against aggression, to occupy a greater portion of their forces.

2nd. I have engaged the august sovereigns, and the illustrious personages, royal and noble, assembled in this capital at the Congress, to establish, in their capacity of *christian knights*, a charitable fund for the support of the religious establishments in the Holy Land, through whose medium succour and consolation may be administered unto those hapless captives who toil in chains, under a scorching sun, and under the blows of their fanatical and inexorable taskmasters; scarcely fed sufficiently to sustain nature, having only rations of bad bread, rice, and oil, five days out of the seven they work like beasts of burthen; and the Fridays and Sundays subsisting on the charity of the European consuls, on that of good *Mussulmans* who *profess* and *practise* hospitality in obedience to their law, and on that of the *Jewish* merchants. This state of things being a reproach to all Europe, professing, as she does, the *Christian* religion, one of the fundamental principles of which is *charity*, has been taken into serious consideration by a convention of knights, imperial, royal, noble, and illustrious, composed of all the nations, and of all the orders of knighthood, and which was holden at the Augarten,

in a house appertaining to his imperial and royal majesty the Emperor of Austria, having for its purpose the formation of a fund as above mentioned, whose object interests religion, humanity, and the honour of Christendom. These principles having been formally set forth and recognised in the invitations given by the knights to each other, to their friends and their families, and signed with their illustrious names, I have the satisfaction of being enabled to acquaint your excellency, that in conformity with the noble example of the august sovereign, a subscription has been opened, and goes on increasing; the sum already in the chest, under the charge of Messrs. Fries and Co., and which will be distributed under the inspection of the ministers plenipotentiary of the sovereigns at war with the Barbaric States, being already sufficiently considerable to defray the disbursements that have been made, and to afford *instant* relief to the wretched sufferers, awaiting an ulterior measure for their deliverance—for putting an end for ever to the depredations whereby their number is daily augmented. In order to strike at the root of the evil, possessing some influence among the counsellors of the divan at Constantinople, I conceive that I *have the power*, and consequently *ought to have the inclination*, to employ it to induce the Ottoman Sultan to contribute his assistance for the repression of atrocities which commit him in the face of all Europe, and disgrace him in the eyes of his own subjects, rebellious and disobedient under the *fermans* inculcating *peace* with the European powers in amity with him. Being well acquainted with the tone and temper of the Sublime Porte, I know what

personages to apply to, and the language to put into the mouths of my correspondents, without offending the self-love of the haughty; on the contrary, I have been anxious to dispose them to save appearances, by anticipating the wishes of the Powers, before they should be urged by remonstrances, threats, or reprisals. I have now the gratification to announce to your excellency a preliminary success, which will be complete, if it be followed up and supported in the manner which I have intimated to Prince Talleyrand, who evinced his approbation of my suggestions, by transmitting them to the Marquis de Rivière, ambassador of his most Christian Majesty at the Ottoman Porte. I am ignorant of the relations subsisting between the Crown of Sardinia and the Sublime Porte; but if they be not direct, they may be carried on through the medium of an ambassador from a friendly power, preparatory to a formal embassy, which the annexation of Genoa, and the change in the flag of the King, render indispensably necessary. The combination of the maritime forces of the two countries against the enemies that act hostilely against the subjects of the *two*, might result from it, and I offer myself to facilitate that object, as well as to arrange the application in a proper manner to bring the barbarians in Africa to reason, and deprive them for ever of the means of annoyance; provided it be desired and demanded by my government in an official and formal manner; without which I must confine myself to friendly invitations addressed to my fellow *knights*, who have taken the same oath with myself, and have it likewise in their memory and in conscience; and to the pointing out the mode of

administering the charitable contributions for supporting the *existence* of the miserable slaves in Africa, for procuring their liberation, and for preventing an increase of their number. It is only under this relationship that I can request your excellency to have the kindness to lay this exposition under the eyes of the King, as a *good knight*, as also the contents of the extract from the subjoined communication of one of my correspondents at Constantinople, and of the comments which I felt it my duty to address to Prince Talleyrand, on forwarding it to that minister.

I have the honour to be, with perfect consideration, your excellency's faithful and devoted servant,

W. SIDNEY SMITH,
Knight of the Military Order of the Bath, and Grand Cross of other Orders, President of the Philanthropic Association of Knights at Vienna.

Afterwards Sir Sidney addressed the following circular to the

Consuls of the Nations at peace with the Barbaric Regencies, resident at those Regencies respectively.

Vienna, January 20, 1815.

Gentlemen,—In order to give full and entire effect unto the benevolent intentions of the imperial, royal, noble, and illustrious knights of all the nations and orders assembled in this capital, and who have, at my

suggestion, in compliance with the earnest request of the brethren of the religious orders in the Holy Land, formed the basis of a charitable fund, the immediate object of which is to comfort, relieve, and emancipate the unfortunate slaves in Barbary, I have to request and enjoin you, in my quality of president of the charitable society, to take the trouble of administering and applying that part of the sum subscribed which shall be destined and granted, in the proportion which the Christian slaves in the state where you reside, bears to the aggregate number in Barbary, according to your knowledge of their necessities, and at your own discretion—begging of you to inform me of the exact amount of the said proportional number, and to render me an account of the application of this sum for the satisfaction of the charitable contributors—informing me likewise of the sum which will be requisite to establish an hospital upon a suitable footing for the sick, and to provide them with subsistence on the sabbath-days, days on which I understand the government withholds their ordinary rations, not requiring their labour upon public works, but on those days they are, in order to live, reduced to the necessity of working for private persons, contrary to the precepts of their religion contained in the decalogue.

I also entreat you, gentlemen, to apprise me of every thing that can be useful for me to know, in order that I may be enabled to point out the application of the sum which shall be remitted for effecting the deliverance of those unhappy sufferers, and to prevent the increase of their number by a general measure, which all Europe is inclined to adopt, in order to abolish for ever that

shameful traffic in slaves, both *white* and *black*, carried on in the *north* of Africa as well as in the *west*, to the prejudice of the productive industry of the natives of the respective countries; internal and external tranquillity, and legitimate trade, being the probable effects of a better order of things.

Your enlightened experience will doubtless suggest the necessity of avoiding the slightest intimation of an intention to ransom those hapless and innocent victims;—an intimation which could not fail to excite the cupidity of their owners, or to stimulate the avidity of the corsairs in pursuit of their prey, with a view of making their captives an object of traffic, without, however, your discouraging the hope of reward for the preservation of the life, the health, and the property of the Europeans who may fall into their hands; exciting also in the minds of the rulers, without irritating them by menaces, the idea that the powers will no longer be tributary, as may be said, to governments which are not powers having a right to declare war against nations in amity with the Sublime Ottoman Porte, and with the Sultan, their lawful sovereign, who, being himself at peace with all Europe, will no longer tolerate acts of violence which might commit him, and destroy the harmony so happily existing between the Sultan and his neighbours.

I leave it to your wisdom to weigh these matters, and to use arguments calculated to make them be duly appreciated by the enlightened and just Mussulmans, avoiding every expression or act that can have a tendency to aggravate an evil which it so highly imports religion, humanity, and the honour of Christendom,

rather to see diminished, and ultimately extinguished.

The state of the charitable fund, and the confidence which the subscribers repose in me, put me in a situation and empower me to refer you to the foregoing exposition, and to empower you to draw, to that effect, bills of exchange signed by three of you gentlemen consuls, on Messrs. Gaulis, brothers, at Genoa, by the earliest opportunity, for the sum of two thousand ducats, that shall be remitted to them by Messrs. Fries and Co.; which sum you will be pleased to employ agreeably to the charitable and beneficent intentions of the contributors, rendering to me an account of the application of the sum, and of your further wants, for their information and satisfaction; addressing your letters for me at this house in Vienna, by the way of Sicily, and per duplicate through the medium of Messrs. Gaulis, Genoa.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen consuls, your faithful and devoted servant,

W. Sidney Smith,
President of the Society of Knights
Liberators of the White Slaves
in Africa.

This produced the following answer from the

Consuls resident with the Basha and Regency of Tripoli, in the West, to the above Circular Letter.

Tripoli, July 24, 1815.

Sir,—We have received the letter which you did us the honour to write to us on the 20th of January, and we hasten to present to you the most sincere assurance of the enthusiasm with which we unite our sentiments to all those which have given birth to the beautiful institution with which you have made us acquainted. Humanity is its basis, and posterity will preserve the remembrance of it, as a monument of grandeur and beneficence.

It is not only the glory of this sublunary world;—it is the imperishable glory of the elect which awaits those nations and the individuals who shall have the honour in concurring towards the success of this noble enterprise.

To you, sir, it is, that the unalterable homage of our gratitude ought to be addressed. When the interests of humanity occupy so large a place in the soul of a hero, 'tis then the heroic character becomes complete, and that the whole world offers to him its unreserved admiration.

We have acted with prudence and circumspection in the communication which we have made to his highness the Basha, and it is with heartfelt satisfaction that we have the pleasure of informing you, that it was received by him in the most favourable manner; that the Basha, of his own motion, participates in almost all your wishes,

and enters in all respects into the views of the institution; and, finally, to give a proof of his friendly disposition towards the christian world, he will diminish the price for the ransom of the slaves, whose redemption shall be consequent upon this institution.

We have the honour of proposing to you a code of laws and regulations, to which we annex an estimate of the expenses, which we think worthy of your approbation.

In our function of agents for such an institution, we shall consider as a sacred duty the rendering ourselves worthy of the confidence with which we are honoured, and to merit in every respect the founder's approbation.

We have the honour to be, with the best consideration, your excellency's most obedient and faithful servants,

H. WARRINGTON,
British Consul-General.
P. N. BURSTROM,
Swedish Consul.
R. B. JONES,
Consul-Gen. for the U. S.

Deliberations of the Consuls residentiary at Tripoli.

At a meeting of the consuls at Tripoli, having for its object to take into consideration the contents of a letter addressed by Sir W. Sidney Smith, president of a noble and benevolent institution, consecrated to the relief of all the christian slaves who are in the territory of the

regency of Tripoli, and to the amelioration of their condition.

After having minutely considered the details, the motives, and objects of this institution, as they are severally set forth in the above-mentioned letter, we, (the undersigned,) wishing to draw up, with the greatest care, a code of laws and regulations which may fulfil in every particular the permanent intentions of that society, and to prevent, by all the means in our power, even the possibility of abuse in the application of the funds which shall be destined for the relief of humanity—the most noble attribute of Christianity — have unanimously adopted the following regulations, which we submit, with deference and respect, to Sir W. Sidney Smith:—

Art. 1. It is absolutely necessary to establish an hospital, the first expense of which will be, in Spanish dollars 1,500

2. The number of sick slaves may be estimated at an average of fifty per day, throughout the year, which, at the rate of eighteen buchamsiers each, will amount to 4,160

3. Fifty beds, with the furniture, would cost . 500

4. The attendance of an expert surgeon . . 600

5. A comptroller of expenses 200

6. Two infirmary nurses 100

7. The society taking upon itself the purchase of medicines, and sending them to Tripoli, they would cost 1,000

8. The mean number of Christian slaves at Tripoli is about four hundred, for the clothing

of each, viz. cap, jacket, pantaloons, shirt, handkerchief, and shoes, at the rate of six dollars each 2,400

9. To provide each of these four hundred slaves with a good dinner every Sunday, at twelve buchamsiers a head, would come to 3,122

10. Supposing this regency to make one hundred and fifty slaves a year, we propose to redeem fifty annually; this benefit is not confined solely in restoring those captives to their country and their families, but the prospect of a period that would not exceed three years, would likewise mitigate the sufferings and horrors of bondage. The Basha would grant, gratuitously, every slave a guarantee against any future captivity—fifty ransoms, at three hundred dollars . . . 15,000

11. Necessary charges for the keeping of the registers, and making out the accounts for the examination of the committee . . . 300

Dollars . . 28,824

12. A committee composed of three consuls shall be formed for carrying this plan into effect; they shall have the direction, and even make themselves responsible for the same.

13. Their powers shall continue for two years, at the expiration of which, or in case of a vacancy, the consuls and agents of other nations shall cause them to be succeeded by competent persons, (the same being eligible,) in such a manner that the committee shall always consist, at least, of two.

14. Monthly statements of the situation of every part of this administration shall be transmitted to the president, Sir W. Sidney Smith.

15. The majority of the committee (two) shall be decisive and obligatory on the third member, upon every matter under deliberation.

(L. S.) H. WARRINGTON,
British Consul-General.

(L. S.) P. N. BURSTROM,
Swedish Consul.

(L. S.) R. B. JONES,
Consul-General U. S.

These views of the consuls seem just, moderate, and practicable. However, a separate treaty of peace, signed in December, 1815, between the United States and the Dey of Algiers, gave a severe blow to Sir Sidney Smith's organisation, as it, though humbling the power of the Dey, taught him to look forwards for compensation from more piracies, and other powers, each to take care of themselves, separately.

Notwithstanding all Sir Sidney's well-planned schemes, and his indefatigable exertions, the operations of this society of philanthropic knights never obtained any great weight, or produced any very remarkable results; and Lord Exmouth's chastisement of the Dey of Algiers seemed to

have paralysed their energies to a state that bordered upon inanition. Thus things remained until the plan gradually faded away from the public attention.

We shall not, therefore, follow Sir Sidney Smith farther through all his miscellaneous labours on this subject. Sufficient has been adduced to show his manner of operations, and the diplomatic and skilful mode in which he managed his correspondence.

We have now but little more to record. The years of his life that he passed, cherished and honoured in the bosom of his family, will afford ample materials to his private biographer, with which to erect an enduring monument to his household virtues.

On the 19th of July, 1821, he obtained the rank of full admiral, and very long may he live in health, and surrounded by what makes man most happy, to enjoy his well-earned honours.

We saw the veteran hero on the day of the coronation of our present most gracious sovereign, and though he walked a little lamely from the effects of his former wounds, he appeared otherwise in excellent health, and still to possess the stamina of a dozen more naval victories.

It is a most delicate and a very embarrassing

office to make personal comments upon characters still in existence. Whatever may be a man's avowed contempt for commendation, however refined may be the quality, and however vast the quantity tendered to him, the chances are many that something in the panegyric will displease, that some much-cherished trait will be omitted, and some quality, of which the possessor is secretly proud, will not be sufficiently dwelt upon. When a person, or, at least, an ordinary one, forms an estimate of his own merits, (and who is there that does not?) he will find praise too often take a wrong direction, and, in whatever direction it may take, he will deem it fall short of the mark.

But when duty demands the language of censure to be used, how shall the writer escape the reprehension of the living subject of his remarks? Truly, it is much more pleasant to write characters of the dead; but, as we fervently hope that these means of lightening a biographer's task may be long before they exist in respect to Sir Sidney Smith, we must perform our invidious duty in the best manner that we are able, and in no invidious spirit.

Man, either in private or public life, lives not for himself only. In the social circle of his acquaintance, his acts will be commented upon,

his manners criticised, and his motives arraigned. And this is right. It is a healthful check upon his own character. In whatever circle, whether great or small, in which influence is exerted, that influence should never be permitted to travel beyond the control of opinion. It is the only power that society possesses for the preservation of all the nicer and more refined moralities, for the sustaining of honourable feelings, and the expanding the graces and elegancies of life. Since people will talk of us, a plain obligation lies before us to give them the opportunity of only talking well.

If these observations have force on private individuals, how much more applicable are they to one who challenges the observations of his fellow men, by acting before them great and conspicuous parts. If any actor comes forward to play an important *rôle*, and he shrinks from or rebels against criticism, it is morally certain that he has undertaken that which he cannot worthily perform, and that he should give place to better men.

Of Sir Sidney Smith's private life, let those, and they are many, who have been made happy with his social virtues, and have rejoiced in his household amiabilities, speak. The voice of the friend, the relation, and the guest,

will not be silent. It is our province to judge of his public conduct by his public acts.

Of his personal appearance we have thrice spoken, as it manifested itself at three different epochs of his life. It will be sufficient here to repeat, that he has been very happy in this respect.

He possesses a mind fertile in resources, and an intuitive power to meet contingencies, however sudden and appalling, with the rapidity of lightning, and the certainty of mathematical calculation. This is an invaluable faculty in a commander, and no commander possesses it in a more eminent degree than Sir Sidney. He is not only constitutionally active, but restless, though sufficiently cautious and deliberate in working out the promptings of his enterprising nature. Eager for the excitement of action, whenever the danger of battle has commenced, and the roar of war is up, he evinces a presence of mind and a coolness that look very like enjoyment, and if it be so, may God forgive him for it. He is the very chief under whom men wish to fight; for they feel assured that they are fighting to good purpose, and that, whatever may be their individual fate, the general success is certain. It is a sustaining thought, in the hurry and tumult of mortal strife, to know that

you have only to do bravely, for there is one directing your energies who is thinking coolly.

The powers of Sir Sidney's mind have been advantaged only by the desultory sort of discipline incidental to a stirring life. Men have educated him more than books, action more than study. Yet books have not been disregarded, nor study neglected. Consequently, he is more useful than profound, his views more clear than far-sighted, his understanding more expansive than deep. He is not free from bigotry, but it is the high-toned bigotry of lofty and elevating prejudices, the pride which belongs to a refined state of feudalism, that manifests itself in the grand exaggerations of chivalry. We believe, in our hearts, that he loves the masses of mankind, but we think that he is too anxious for the privileges of the classes, and would not be over much rejoiced to see so much good and happiness be the lot for the undistinguished whole, that it would leave no room for distinction to the glorious few. Perhaps, with all his philanthropy, he would not welcome the time when there would be no further need of great generals and ducal Wellingtons, of conquering admirals and star-decorated Sir Sidney Smiths. In a man trained to animating danger and victorious strife, this can neither be imputed to him as a fault, nor even a

failing. Such self-abnegation belongs only to perfection higher yet than any admiral or general attained—that of the humble christian philosopher. It is only he who feels how sinful is the price of glory, when it is paid for in blood—blood in quantities so greatly horrible!

It is impossible to compare Sir Sidney Smith's professional abilities with those of any other naval commander. He was, in many essentials, utterly unlike those who achieved for England her proudest naval victories. He would have dared more, and probably have done more—yet, we think, have risked too much. After all, so much, in a naval combat, depends upon accident, that success more often attends upon too much than upon too little risk. Still, had Sir Sidney attained any great naval command, there was danger of his not being able to resist the fascinations of the splendid, the magnificent, and the chivalrous, both in treaty and in fight, to the neglect of the stern, the hard, and the usefully successful. Even in his limited commands, refined notions of honour have saved the enemy from destructive broadsides that could have been poured in at an advantage, and which few, besides himself, would have deemed unfair.

In all relations of life, he was always esteemed

just, charitable, and more than safely generous. He is not deficient in a certain conversational species of eloquence, and displays much facility in composition. As a friend, or as an enemy, there are but few living who could excel him—for if a man must have an enemy, a more candid or a more generous one never existed.

Now to the graver consideration of his faults,—they are mostly those of the sanguine temperament, and are but a little worse than virtues exaggerated into failings. Shall we be thought severe when we say that a pride to which he is justly entitled was sometimes sublimated into vanity—that his greediness for glory compelled him to attempt to gather it in fields where he ought not to have been found? This zeal led him into interferences that were inimical to his own interests, and thus, through his eagerness to do too much, his country suffered from his being permitted to do nothing.

This desire of being continually seen under a triumphal arch induced him, at one time, to affect a little singularity of dress; and has, at all times, attracted about him a crowd of flatterers, a train that is always attendant upon the eminent. After all, they are but the gilded settings of a glorious portrait.

Than Sir Sidney Smith, no one ever inscribed

on the pages of history, and even of romance, more emphatically deserved the title of hero. That he had not the requisites to become a truly "great man," we will not say, for he was denied the opportunity.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

ANECDOTES AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

In the pages that the reader has hitherto perused, we have given a continuous narrative of the public life of Sir William Sidney Smith; but, in the occurrences of a career so extremely active, a career in which almost every day had its exciting adventure, much that was not essential to the totality of these memoirs was necessarily omitted. But, as there were very many facts collateral to the main action of the biography, and several circumstances explanatory of our hero's character, as bearing with strength upon many of his adventures, we have thrown these together in the form of an appendix, which appendix we have also

made the vehicle of laying before the public a few of the anecdotes that have been assigned to one of the most anecdotal characters that ever existed. Some of these *historiettes* we ourselves hold to be aprocryphal, but a man's bias and the calibre of his mind may be as well, and, in some cases, better estimated by the stories that the world fastens upon him, than by the relation of isolated facts in which he was actually concerned, or by deeds that he really performed.

This appendix will also give us the opportunity of explaining ourselves on a few subjects, on which, in our previous text, we may have been misunderstood, and also of correcting one or two errors into which we have been inadvertently led, by incorrect information, in the early pages of the work, and which pages were unfortunately printed off before the inaccuracies were discovered.

We shall first mention the

PUBLIC TRIBUTES TO SIR SIDNEY SMITH.

These we have, generally speaking, noticed as they occurred in the order of time of these memoirs. They are numerous, and we know that those who have perused this work will acknowledge that they are no more than just.

For our own part, we do not think that they have been adequate either to his acknowledged services, or to his great merits, for, had they been anything like an equivalent to his capacity and talent, he would have been the most panegyrised person, with but few exceptions, of the times in which he acted.

With the exception of the period of his early career, he has always had to struggle against some sinister, secret, and powerful interest. He was not strong enough to overawe opposition, though his strength was sufficient to make that opposition a concealed, therefore, too often, a more prejudicial one. He was more solicitous to conquer admiration than to disarm enemies. From the object in view,—and that object was always a worthy, and sometimes a vast one,—he was seldom or never deterred by considerations of worldly, much less of self-interested prospects. He was just the man to subdue the enemies of his country, and by his uncompromising character to increase his own. Thus, so few friends had he in the House of Lords, that when the thanks of that assembly were voted to General Hutchinson, Lord Keith, and others, and William the Fourth, then Duke of Clarence, wished to particularise Sir Sidney Smith for his various and eminent services on that occasion, it was

opposed by the ministers and others on several frivolous grounds, and thus his royal highness was induced to consent to withdraw his motion. This occurred on the 21st of March, 1801.

But there were other and more generous feelings entertained and cherished in those quarters where political intrigue was, as yet, unknown, and where merit still kindled the enthusiasm of sympathy in minds that, possessing high qualities, knew the value of, and venerated those that possessed them. At the early age of nineteen, Reginald Heber, the future Bishop of Calcutta, the admired author, and the all but idolised spiritual pastor, thus expresses himself on the occasion of Sir Sidney Smith's victory at Acré, in the poem that obtained the prize at Oxford.

" Ye sainted spirits of the warrior dead,
Whose giant force Britannia's armies led!
Whose bickering falchions, foremost in the fight,
Still pour'd confusion on the Soldan's might;
Lords of the biting axe and beamy spear,
Wide conquering Edward, lion Richard, hear!
At Albion's call your crested pride resume,
And burst the marble slumbers of the tomb.
Your sons behold! in arms, in heart the same,
Still press the footsteps of parental fame,
To Salem still their generous aid supply,
And pluck the palm of Syrian chivalry.

When he, from towery Malta's yielding isle,
And the green waters of reluctant Nile,
Th' apostate chief,—from Misraim's subject shore,
To Acré's walls his trophied banners bore;
Where the pale desert mark'd his proud array,
And Desolation hoped an ampler sway;
What hero, then, triumphant Gaul dismay'd?
What arm repell'd the victor renegade?
Britannia's champion! bath'd in hostile blood,
High on the breach the dauntless SEAMAN stood.
Admiring Asia saw the unequal fight,—
E'en the pale crescent bless'd the Christian's might.
O day of death! O thirst beyond control,
Of crimes and conquest in th' invader's soul!
The slain, yet warm, by social footsteps trod,
O'er the red moat supplied a ghastly road;
O'er the red moat our conquering thunders flew,
And loftier still the grisly rampier grew,
While proudly gleam'd above the rescued tower
The wavy cross that mark'd Britannia's power."

This is an extract from a very beautiful and well-sustained poem, elaborately finished, and almost first-rate. The poem itself does not certainly evince any very lofty or very romantic flight, but it is eloquent, solemn, and holy; and will well repay any one, who, not yet having perused it, may attentively read the whole. We have no hesitation in saying, that had the bishop, who died so unfortunately and prematurely in the East, staid quietly in the

West, and cultivated the Epic muse, there are no degrees of excellence to which he might not reasonably have aspired.

We now proceed to give another poem in honour of Sir Sidney Smith, of a much less ambitious character, and, truly, of much inferior merit. It is from the pen of Dr. Houlston.

1.

Says Fame, t'other day, to the Genius of Song,
" A favourite of mine you've neglected too long;
He's a sound bit of oak, a son of the wave,
The scourge of proud France, Sir Sidney the brave.
Whose wreath from his country, the hero's bright crown,
The grand Sultan decks with the gem of renown."

2.

" Madame Fame," cries the Genius, " no bard in my train
Of Sir Sidney's desert can equal the strain;
Buonaparte alone can but sing his merit,
His laurels and glory, his valour and spirit.
Whose wreath," &c.

3.

Neptune swore it was true, for so active was he,
That he never can rest with Sir Sidney at sea;
As some feat or other he's always performing,
Either burning or sinking, capt'ring or storming.
Whose wreath, &c.

4.

"Master Neptune," said Mars, "I claim, as my son,
A share of the glory Sir Sidney has won;
Though a brave British tar, as a soldier he'll fight,
All Egypt resounds from morning till night.
Whose wreath," &c.

5.

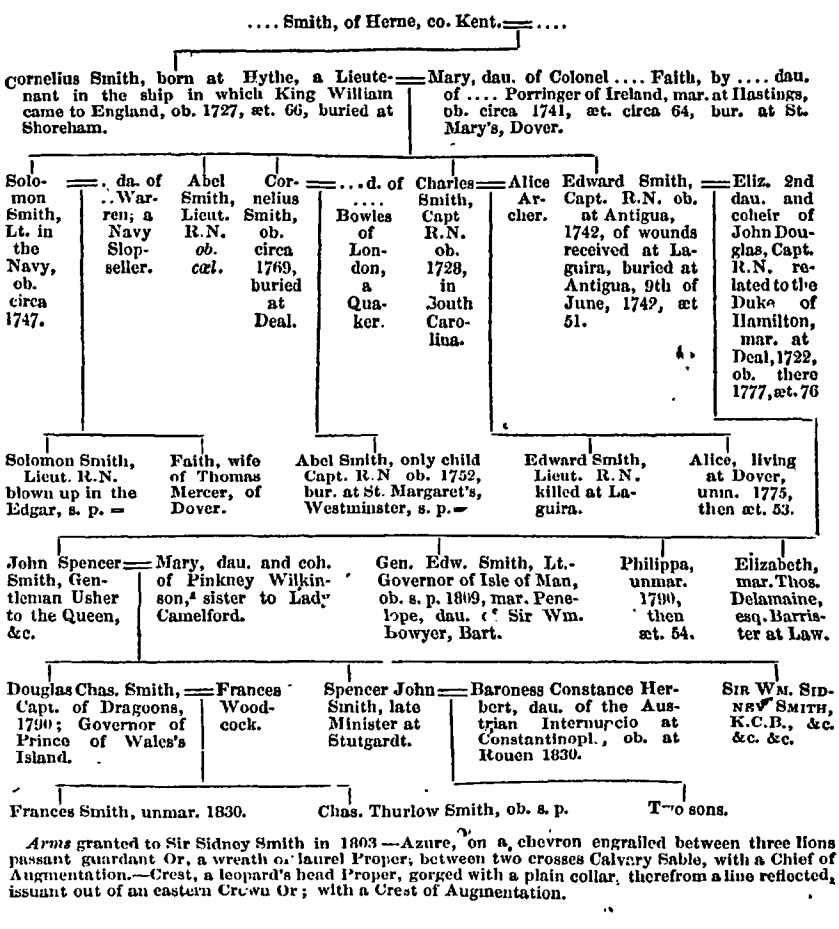
Since Fame and their godships thus jointly agree
Sir Sidney's a hero on land or at sea,
With justice, brave Turks, from so bright an example,
Proclaim him "The wonderful Knight of the Temple."
Whose wreath, &c.

6.

While George of Old England, and Selim the Great,
Hold firm the alliance 'gainst Gaul's hydra state,
The Lion and Crescent triumphant shall reign,
And Sir Sidney do honour to both o'er the main.
Whose wreath, &c.

And now we proceed to give the best genealogical account of Sir Sidney's family with which we have met. It is an extract from the "Gentleman's Magazine." In a former part of the work we stated a report, upon what we held to be the best authority, that John Spencer Smith, Esq., our plenipotentiary at Constantinople, had intermarried with a Turkish lady of high rank. That error is here corrected.

PEDIGREE OF ADMIRAL SIR SIDNEY SMITH, K.C.B.


.... Smith, of Herne, co. Kent. = ...
Cornelius Smith, born at Bythe, a Lieutenant in the ship in which King William came to England, ob. 1727, æt. 66, buried at Shoreham. = Mary, dau. of Colonel .... Faith, by .... dau. of .... Porringer of Ireland, mar. at Hastings, ob. circa 1741, æt. circa 64, bur. at St. Mary's, Dover.
Solomon Smith, Lt. in the Navy, ob. circa 1747. = ... da. of ... Warren; a Navy Slopseller.
Abel Smith, Lieut. R.N. ob. cæl.
Cornelius Smith, ob. circa 1769, buried at Deal.
... d. of .... Bowles of London, a Quaker. = Charles Smith, Capt R.N. ob. 1728, in South Carolina.
Alice Archer.
Edward Smith, Capt. R.N. ob. at Antigua, 1742, of wounds received at Laguira, buried at Antigua, 9th of June, 1742, æt 51. = Eliz. 2nd dau. and coheir of John Douglas, Capt. R.N. related to the Duke of Hamilton, mar. at Deal, 1722, ob. there 1777, æt. 76
Solomon Smith, Lieut. R.N. blown up in the Edgar, s. p. =
Faith, wife of Thomas Mercer, of Dover.
Abel Smith, only child Capt. R.N ob. 1752, bur. at St. Margaret's, Westminster, s. p. =
Edward Smith, Lieut. R.N. killed at Laguira.
Alice, living at Dover, unm. 1775, then æt. 53.
John Spencer Smith, Gentleman Usher to the Queen, &c. = Mary, dau. and coh. of Pinkney Wilkinson, sister to Lady Camelford.
Gen. Edw. Smith, Lt.-Governor of Isle of Man, ob. s. p. 1809, mar. Penelope, dau. of Sir Wm. Bowyer, Bart.
Philippa, unmar. 1790, then æt. 54.
Elizabeth, mar. Thos. Delamaine, esq. Barrister at Law.
Douglas Chas. Smith, Capt. of Dragoons, 1790; Governor of Prince of Wales's Island. = Frances Woodcock.
Spencer John Smith, late Minister at Stutgardt. = Baroness Constance Herbert, dau. of the Austrian Internuncio at Constantinopl., ob. at Rouen 1830.
Sir Wm. Sidney Smith, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c.
Frances Smith, unmar. 1830.
Chas. Thurlow Smith, ob. s. p.
Two sons.

Arms granted to Sir Sidney Smith in 1803.—Azure, on a chevron engrailed between three lions passant guardant Or, a wreath of laurel Proper, between two crosses Calvary Sable, with a Chief of Augmentation.—Crest, a leopard's head Proper, gorged with a plain collar, therefrom a line reflected, issuant out of an eastern Crown Or; with a Crest of Augmentation.

The Arms of the Smythes of Corsham were, Azure, an escutcheon Argent, within, six lions rampant, Or; and were allowed to the younger branches at the Herald's Visitation of Wiltshire in 1623, upon the production of

an ancient seal, then, it is said in the Visitation, two hundred years old.* Customer Smythe, however, obtained two grants of arms to himself and his descendants, differenced from the old coat; the first grant being per pale Or and Azure, a chevron between three lions passant guardant counterchanged: and the second grant, from Clarencieux Cooke, in 1588, was the coat and crest now used by his noble descendants; namely, 'Azure, a chevron engrailed between three lions passant guardant Or.' Crest—'An Ounce's head erased Argent, Pelletee, and gorged with a collar Sable, edged Or, charged with three Pallets, and chained Or.'——The arms and crest of Sir Sidney Smith, however they may be described in the instrument, are in fact a new grant, and were founded upon the coat allowed to Customer Smythe in 1588, from the idea that he was descended from that person, though the pedigree could not be deduced; a common practice where a connexion between a grantee and a family entitled to Arms is presumed to exist. But an heraldic eye will at once discover, by the chevron being charged with 'a wreath of laurel Proper, between two crosses Calvary Sable,' and by the crest being 'a leopard's head Proper,

* "This coat produced in an old seal, to be the right coat of this family, and is said to be two hundred years old."

gorged with a plain collar, therefrom a line reflexed,' that the Arms and Crest of Sir Sidney Smith are totally distinct from those of the Viscounts Strangford."

We now present to our readers the detailed account of the capture of Sir Sidney Smith, at Havre, by his secretary, friend, and fellow prisoner, the unfortunate Captain Wright. We have before stated, that many were the absurd rumours respecting the apparently rash act that led to this celebrated captivity. At this time, Captain Wright was only a midshipman, but a very matured one.

"Having anchored, on the morning of the 17th of April, in the outer road of Havre de Grace, with the Diamond alone, we discovered at anchor, in the inner road, an armed lugger. A project was immediately conceived of boarding her in the night by means of our boats. In justice to the merit, and indeed necessity of this project, in a national point of view, it is necessary to inform you, that this was the only remaining vessel which continued to annoy the English trade within the limits of our squadron. She had been recently equipped at Havre; carried ten three-

pounders and forty-five men; was commanded by a bold, enterprising man, with a private commission, and sailed so well in light winds, as to have more than once eluded the pursuit of our frigate, when returning from the English coast. Her first depredations on our trade were of a magnitude to warrant the risk of a small sacrifice in her capture; and Sir Sidney had established it as a point of honour in his squadron, that an enemy's vessel within the limits of his command should not even pass from port to port.

"The force employed in our enterprise consisted of the launch, armed with an eighteen-pounder carronade and muskets, four other boats with muskets, including an armed wherry, in which Sir Sidney commanded in person, and carrying in all fifty-two persons; viz. nine officers, six of whom were from twelve to sixteen years of age, three servants, and forty seamen. We were all volunteers; were disposed to surmount all obstacles that should oppose our purpose; not a breath of air—not a ripple on the water: the oars were muffled, and everything promised the happiest success. We quitted the ship about ten o'clock, preceded by Sir Sidney Smith in his wherry. Arrived within sight of the Vengeur, we lay upon oars to reconnoitre her

position, and to receive definite orders. This done, we took a broad sheer between her and the shore, in order to assume the appearance of fishing-boats coming out of harbour, and thereby protract the moment of alarm: in this we succeeded beyond expectation, and afterwards rowed directly towards her, reserving our fire till she should commence the action. This happened after hailing us within about half-pistol shot; the boats returned it in an instant, and within less than ten minutes we had got possession of the vessel.

"It was now that we first discovered our difficulties. The enemy had very wisely cut their cable during the action; the vessel had therefore been drifting towards the shore all this time. On perceiving it, we sought in vain for a second anchor heavy enough to hold her against the strength of a very rapid tide that rushed into the Seine. All the boats were sent ahead to tow, and every sail was set; but it was all in vain. After all these fruitless efforts, we tried the effect of a small sledge, without hope of its holding. The vessel dragged it a long way, and at length brought up.

"Here, therefore, we lay, anxiously expecting daylight, to discover the extent of the evil we had to encounter, or for a propitious breeze to

assist our escape. Daylight at length appeared, and terminated our suspense. Our position was in the last degree critical: we were half a league higher up the river than Havre, the town and harbour of which was now in motion, in hostile preparation. Nothing remained for us but to make every possible preparation on our parts for a desperate and unequal conflict. The vessel, however, was destitute of every material article of defence, such as grapeshot and match. There was not a single round of the former, and the latter was so bad that it would never fire upon the first application. It was resolved, however, to fight as long as the lugger could swim, in the expectation that, by protracting our surrender, a prosperous wind might deliver us, even in the last extremity.

"All Havre was now in motion to attack us—some shot had reached us whilst we were in the act of discharging our prisoners, and sending them on their parole to Honfleur; for, with his usual humanity, Sir Sidney Smith proposed to send them away, clear from the dangers of a battle in which they could not co-operate. They received his kindness with gratitude.

"The attack now commenced. We got under weigh to attack a large lugger which was advancing, whilst the boats were detached to rake

her with grapeshot and musketry. The result was that she sheered off. We had not, however, escaped clear; her grape and musketry had considerably disabled our rigging, and wounded some of our best men: your young friend Charles B. was among the number. This action was scarcely over, when we were surrounded on all sides by a variety of small craft, crowded with troops; and another action immediately commenced, more desperate and more unequal than the former. Sir Sidney ordered all the muskets to be collected and loaded, and made such a distribution of them, that each man was enabled to fire several rounds without the necessity of reloading; the midshipmen reloaded them as fast as they were discharged. In this manner, an incessant fire was kept up for some time. No breeze, however, appeared, and resistance was evidently in vain, as the country was assembling. In a word, we were compelled to surrender."

We omitted to state, that whilst Sir Sidney had the command of the Antelope off Boulogne, he made an attempt to burn the flotilla in that harbour.

One very dark night, two long galleys, with some other boats, stoutly manned by a number of volunteers from the squadron, entered the harbour unperceived, and had set two of those fire machines, called carcases, adrift, which floated in with the tide, among the shipping. These were filled with large quantities of combustible matters, and were to explode at a given time, (fifteen minutes.) In this they succeeded, but, from the powder being too weak, or from some other unknown cause, they had not the desired effect, although a very considerable conflagration ensued.

The men in the boats were unfortunately discovered, at the same moment, by the soldiers at the batteries, who immediately commenced a heavy fire of musketry upon them. The shot flew about like hail, and a great quantity went through the boats, and one or two men were killed, and a few wounded, whilst the rest escaped unhurt. This attempt was looked upon merely as an experiment, and we are unpatriotic enough to express our pleasure that it did not succeed.

Every friend to humanity should rejoice in failures of this description of warfare. It is not conducted upon just principles. When a town is besieged, there must always be some previous notice given from the very nature of the warfare,

so that non-belligerents of all sorts have time to provide for their safety; at all events, they are not taken by surprise, and can always expostulate with the military defenders of the place, as to the policy of jeopardising their lives by a resistance. But when a fireship is sent into a harbour at the dead of night, women, children, and non-combatants of all descriptions are ruthlessly exposed to lacerating and dreadful deaths, without their having any opportunity or option given either of retreat or surrender; it is, therefore, an assassination. Should these wholesale private murders succeed, retaliation always follows, and each retaliation is more dreadful than the one to which it gave rise; thus generous courage becomes barbarised, and seamen and soldiers are made so many midnight and plotting fiends, rather than brave and avowed assailants.

We shall begin our division of anecdotes by one confessedly spurious. Though a lie, from beginning to end, it is yet the father of a son, not only true, but true by Sir Sidney Smith's own attestation, and authenticated by his signature. Thus says the mendacious father of the veracious offspring.

In Cave's "Northern Summer," there are published, among the anecdotes of Captain Elphinstone, the following relating to Sir Sidney:—

"Being sent, some years since, on shore on the Irish coast, with a brother officer, who is now holding a deservedly high situation in the naval service, to look for some deserters from their ship, after a long, fatiguing, and fruitless search, they halted at a little inn to refresh themselves. Having done so, Sir Sidney suddenly became silent, and seemed lost in meditation.

"'My dirk for your thoughts,' exclaimed his friend, gently tapping him on the shoulder. 'What project, Sidney, has got possession of you now?'

"'My good fellow,' replied the young warrior, his expressive countenance brightening as he spoke, 'you will, no doubt, suppose me a little disordered in my mind; but I have been thinking that before twelve years shall have rolled over my head, I shall make the British arms triumphant in the Holy Land.'

"We need not knock at the cabinet-door of St. Cloud to know how splendidly this prediction was verified."

Thus far the anecdote-monger; now for Sidney himself. Upon being questioned as to the authenticity of this juvenile prophecy, so boldly

attributed to him, with his usual promptitude, he answered by writing on the margin of the book—

"December 29th, 1805.—S. S. was never in Ireland in his life. The author has recorded the waking-dream of some other person, not of

W. SIDNEY SMITH."

There are no positions in which a man of honour may be seen in which Sir Sidney Smith does not excel. He is as amusing at the convivial board, as he is great in danger and heroic in battle. His social qualities are of the very highest order. Gentlemanly, yet frank; straightforward, yet urbane, blending in his diction and manner suavity with energy, his conversation is a mental treat of the most refined description. He speaks only to please. No man can better relate a story, and few have so many to relate. He is an inexhaustible mine of anecdote, a mine, in which all the ore is of the most intrinsic quality.

His ubiquitous travels, his many adventures by flood and field, and his strong discriminating

mind, have supplied him with a fund of anecdote, that we fervently hope will not, for the want of a chronicler, be lost to posterity. We have endeavoured to collect a few of these from creditable oral testimony, and from those on record dispersed in several publications.

He is thus described by one, who is, at the time of publishing these memoirs, personally acquainted with him. The extract is from that valuable periodical, the "United Service Journal."

"He is a man remarkably polished and refined, but his politeness is more that of the heart than the studied air of the man of the world. He is generous to a fault, and one who practises that generosity with elegance and grace, considering, no doubt, the manner in which an obligation is conferred, as equally essential, in some instances, as the gift itself. His heart, indeed, is the source of all good and elevated actions, and his conduct, on many occasions, has reminded me of that beautiful saying of the moralist, 'I desire to be happy, but I live in society with other men who also desire to be happy; let us then endeavour to discover the means by which I can augment my own happiness, whilst I add to, or, at least, do not diminish, that of others.' He is, besides, one of those happy people on whom

nature or philosophy, or rather both, have fixed their throne, and banished care and disappointment from their peaceful territory."

His friend proceeds to state, "His presence is esteemed an honour in every society; and his amiable and entertaining manners are a charm in every company. I need scarcely add, that his intellectual acquirements are of the highest order. The easy and scientific manner in which he discusses the most difficult and abstruse topics, at interviews with those to whom such subjects are interesting, stamps at once the man of genius, and adds additional lustre to the exalted character of the hero of Acré."

Sir Sidney Smith was ever actuated by the most liberal and far-seeing views. Where was the great accumulation of misery, there was his gallant and gentle heart. Slavery in all its forms was ever his detestation, and he devoted his time, his energies, and too much of his not over abundant means, to alleviate, if he could not suppress it. The slavery of the white population by the Mahometans was always a source to him of great grief and anxiety, and his efforts were strenuous and unremitting in opposing it to the extent of his means. To abolish this terrible traffic in white and European slaves, as we have before stated, he endeavoured to form

a society, and to further the object by subscription. Although large sums were collected, to which he added far more than could have been expected from the most profuse liberality, it was abandoned, as being wholly inadequate to work out the ends proposed. On this subject Sir Sidney received the following letter from the late Duke of Gloucester:—

"*Bagshot Park*, —— 1816.

"Dear Sir Sidney Smith,—In looking over my papers this day, I was much shocked to find a letter of yours so long unanswered: having had the pleasure of receiving it at a moment when my time was entirely taken up, and when each day's post brought me a great number of letters, I mislaid it, and did not, till this morning, put my hand upon it. I now seize the earliest opportunity to return you my thanks for your obliging congratulation upon my marriage, in which the Duchess desires to unite with me; and I must request of you to express to Lady Sidney Smith, and all her fair daughters, my sense of the interest they are so good as to take in an event that has confirmed my happiness. I have now to congratulate you on the success of the attack upon Algiers. This brilliant event reflects great credit upon Lord Exmouth, who

appears to have concluded the operation with much skill and decision, and adds fresh lustre to our tars, who have indeed acted upon this occasion like themselves. In my last letter I entered fully into the subject of that terrible system of white slavery, and stated to you my sentiments respecting the mode of putting an end to it. I will, therefore, now merely express my hope that your health is perfectly good, and renew to you the assurance of the great regard with which I am,

" Dear Sir Sidney,

" Very sincerely yours,

" WILLIAM FREDERICK."

These are the sentiments alluded to:

" I most highly appreciate the noble motives that instigated you to the undertaking—motives worthy of yourself—and most anxiously wish to see this detestable traffic in white slaves put an end to, an object which every Briton cannot fail to have at heart. Yet I do not conceive that by private subscription it can ever be accomplished, and I am clearly of opinion that it can solely be done by the powers of Europe determining, by force of arms, to stop this disgraceful and abominable trade. In such a way this very desirable object may be attained, and I should be happy

to see you in command of a squadron for that purpose."

We have before dwelt upon that paragon of gaolers, M. Lésne, who was, in his way, nearly, if not quite, as chivalrous as Sir Sidney himself. In those rambles together on the Boulevards, in which there was so much mutual confidence displayed, the captive and the keeper often changed offices, the noble prisoner taking under his charge the elevated gaoler. This latter excellent soul would often, in these amiable perambulations, indulge in so many *bons coups de vin*, that not only care, but even assistance, was necessary to convey him back to the Temple; and so strange did this travestie seem, that more than once he was actually refused readmittance into his prison, with his drunken keeper, by the guard on duty.

The room allotted to Sir Sidney in the Temple was the same which the unfortunate King Louis XVI. occupied in the interval between his removal from the palace of his ancestors to the scaffold. It was an apartment that could boast of but few of the comforts so much prized by an Englishman, and had that intolerable nuisance, a smoky chimney; and the gaoler would point out the very spot where the king would throw

himself upon the floor on a mattress, in order to escape, in some degree, from the clouds of smoke that filled the room, and in this humiliating condition his Queen and the Princess Elizabeth would kneel by his side, and occupy themselves in repairing his clothes.

We give the following anecdote upon the faith of the gentleman who furnished it to the "United Service Journal." We do not much admire the spirit of irritation that it evinces against Buonaparte; and, as to its accuracy, the reader must pass his own judgment upon it.

"Sir Sidney, more happy than the monarch of whom we have been speaking, used to go and sit by the gaoler's fire whenever the wind was so high as to render it absolutely impossible to have one in his own room. One day, as he sat, as usual, with this prince of gaolers, of whose ready disposition to serve him to the utmost of his ability he was well assured, he abruptly asked him if he could get a letter, which he was about to write, forwarded to Napoleon?

"'What! seriously?'

"'Yes, seriously,' replied Sir Sidney.

"'But I must first know your designs. What are they?'

"Sir Sidney told him.

"'Well, then, rely on my zeal. Parbleu! I

will deliver it myself. There, Sir Sidney—that's all that I have to say to you.'

" ' It is really involving you in trouble,' said Sir Sidney, fearing the good fellow might compromise himself, and, perhaps, lose his situation by doing so.

" ' Not at all,' said he. ' I have made up my mind. I will place it in his own hands. My life upon it!'

" Sir Sidney, therefore, wrote the letter, which contained a respectful, but spirited and energetic remonstrance against the arbitrary and severe measures that had been resorted to in his particular case, and requested, not as a favour, but as a matter of right, that he might thenceforth be treated in the same manner, and be allowed the same privileges, in every respect, as the other prisoners of war; and concluded by requesting of Napoleon the favour of an early, and, he trusted, a satisfactory answer.

" Furnished with his credentials, off trudged the old gaoler to the house of Napoleon, resolved, in his own mind, to add all the weight he could to the request that the letter contained, by speaking boldly in favour of his prisoner. But Buonaparte, who was vexed to the soul by the recent destruction of the fleet at Toulon, entertained a

bitter animosity towards Sir Sidney; and the great man took no care to conceal it; but, on the contrary, availed himself of such an opportunity to show the spirit that actuated him, to offer insult when it could not be resented.

"When the gaoler returned from his embassy to the general, and entered the room where Sir Sidney sat, he threw himself moodily in the chair on the opposite side of the fireplace, and began poking the fire with a thoughtful and gloomy countenance, and seemed to be seriously engaged in a service which was not required of him, that of raking out the fire, which he would not have failed to have done, had not Sir Sidney put a stop to his ill-timed zeal, by asking him 'to report progress.'

"At length, after sundry strange noises proceeding from his thorax, and a pish! and a bah! and a toss of his head, he thrust his hands into his pockets, and stretching out his legs at their full length, he looked Sir Sidney in the face for the first time, and said, 'Such language makes me mad!'

"'What reception did he give you? Have you seen Buonaparte?'

"'I have,' replied the old fellow, 'and his discourse has made my head ache.'

" ' Well, never mind; let us hear all about it.'

" ' His language has irritated me—made me mad.'

" ' Pshaw! don't repeat; you've said that before. What did he say about me?'

" ' He said that you might stay here till you rotted;' passing his hand over his face to conceal his emotion.

" ' And was he angry with you?'

" ' Why, he told me not to shove in my nose where I had no business.'

" In short, the old gaoler met Buonaparte on the staircase, and delivered Sir Sidney's letter into his own hands, which Napoleon perused on the spot, and flew into a passion with the gaoler for bringing it.

" His insolent reply, which was not confined to the words used by the gaoler, had no other effect at the time than to cause him to be heartily censured for it by his personal friends and adherents; and Sir Sidney took no further notice of him and his message."

We have abridged this anecdote considerably; and here we would willingly pause, as we think what follows does not redound so much to the credit of our hero, as his enthusiastic admirer, the relater of this anecdote, appears to think. We

will give it, however, and give it also all the benefit of our doubts.

"Until an opportunity afterwards presented itself, when no longer a prisoner, but a triumphant conqueror, face to face with his haughty foe at the siege of Acré, opposing his further advance into Egypt, mowing down his columns and battalions that mounted the breach in quick succession to seize upon the golden key (why golden?) to the treasures of the East, and completely *upsetting* all his plans and projects for the conquest of India, the hero of Acré, exulting with honest pride at the success of his arms, and at having shown Napoleon that he had found his match for once, was also resolved to *square yards* with him for his former behaviour; and after a most signal defeat, and when he must have seen that he would be compelled to raise the siege, and was deeply mortified, peevish, and out of temper with himself, and with every one else, a letter was conveyed to him by one of his own soldiers who had been taken prisoner, and who had been set at liberty for the purpose, from his old correspondent and victorious enemy, Sir Sidney Smith, written in a style of exquisite good-humoured irony, perfectly free from recrimination, but well calculated, as was the mes-

sage which accompanied it, to humble him, and render him ridiculous to all around him. And he was heartily laughed at by his friends; some of whom—Junot among the number, as I have said before—were highly indignant at his conduct upon the occasion recorded above, and told him that Sir Sidney had taken an admirable occasion to be revenged, which they could not but foresee would be attended with fatal consequences to their expedition; and so it turned out, for his failure at Acré was followed by a train of disasters,—the abandonment of his enterprise, and, finally, his expulsion from Egypt."

This last extract we have copied *verbatim*. As this anecdote purports to have been derived from Sir Sidney Smith personally, it acquires an importance not due to it intrinsically. Can this be another version of the story of the solicited duel with Buonaparte? Surely there must be some mistake, either with the author or the repeater of this ill-disguised gasconade.

Let us put in contrast some few words that Buonaparte used, speaking of Sir Sidney Smith's conduct in Egypt.

"Sir Sidney Smith is a brave officer. He displayed great ability in the treaty for the evacuation of Egypt by the French. He took advantage of the discontent which he found to

prevail among the French troops at being so long away from France, and at other circumstances. He also showed great humanity and honour in all his proceedings towards the French who fell into his hands."

We fear that Sir Sidney Smith may have occasion fully to appreciate the Spanish proverb—"God preserve me from my friends!"

OFFICIAL

AND

AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS.

In the early part of the work we mentioned Sir Sidney's intrepidity and aptitude for a particular and delicate service, in his *reconnoissance* of Brest harbour. The following is his account of the matter.

Diamond, at Sea, Jan. 4, 1795.

Sir,—In pursuance of your orders, I this morning looked into the port of Brest, in this ship, in order to verify the intelligence of the enemy's fleet being at sea.

I went round the west point of Ushant yesterday, and the wind being easterly, I was obliged to work to windward between the shoals off Point St. Matthew and the rocks to the southward, in order to come near enough to look into the road. We observed a large ship under French colours working in a-head. She took no notice of us, probably supposing that we were of her own na-

tion, from our making so free with the coast. I hoisted French colours, having previously disguised the figure of the ship, in order to favour such a deception. The tide of ebb coming strong out of the harbour, the enemy's ship anchored; and I accordingly anchored astern of her at sunset: I was in hopes, that when the flood made again, she would have weighed, and have proceeded up the passage, that we might have done the same, without approaching her so near as to risk detection, and the consequent frustration of our object; but she continued to lie fast: and I was obliged either to relinquish the going close enough to the harbour to make my observations, or to alarm the coast by attacking her, or else to pass her silently, and thereby leave her in the channel of my retreat. I considered the occasion of my being detached from the squadron as an object of sufficient national importance to justify all risks, and accordingly weighed and passed her sufficiently near to observe, by the light of the moon, that she was a line-of-battle ship. As we proceeded, we saw two other ships at anchor, one of which was evidently a frigate. Not being satisfied that I should, from my then position, be able to discern the anchorage plainly when the day broke, I was obliged to go between those ships and the Toulinguet rocks, observing the precaution, in passing, to give all orders in a low tone of voice, that the enemy might not hear us speak English. They took no notice of us; and by daylight this morning I had attained a position from whence I could discern the usual anchorage of Brest sufficiently distinct to ascertain that there are no men of war in the road, (the basin is not discoverable from with-

out the forts.) I observed the wreck of a large ship on Mingan rock. It now became necessary to make the best of my way out of the passage. Accordingly, I altered my course for that purpose, taking a direction to repass the line-of-battle ship. A corvette, which was steering out in a parallel direction to us, was the first who took the alarm at this change of movement. She brought-to, making signals which communicated the alarm to the other two ships; these both hoisted their topsail-yards immediately, and began getting under sail: my situation now became critical. I saw by the course the line-of-battle ship had taken to cut me off in my passage between her and the rocks, that I could not effectuate it; and there seemed to remain no alternative but to remove their alarm by a conduct that should bespeak ourselves unconcerned. Therefore repeating such of the signals as I could, I steered down directly within hail of this ship, which lay in my way between Basse-Buzec and the Trépieds. I could, by this time, perceive she was a disabled ship, with jury-masts, pumping from leaks, and that some of her upper-deck ports were without their guns. To avoid being questioned in any embarrassing way, I began the conversation in French with the captain, who was in the stern-gallery, accounting for my change of course by saying I observed his disabled state, and came down to him to learn if I could render any assistance. He answered, thanking me for the offer, saying he had men enough; which indeed I could plainly perceive, as they were crowded on the gunwale and quarter. Looking at this ship, I could not but form speculations, from her crippled state, that I should be

able to preserve my position under her stern, so as to rake her repeatedly; thus beginning an action with such advantage as would be sufficient to ensure us a favourable issue: my guns were ready pointed; but I then reflected that it was worse than useless to fire, since I could not hope to secure the prize, and carry her off from the two other ships; and as the execution of the service I was sent upon might be rendered abortive by the unfavourable result of so unequal a contest as fighting all three together in a frigate, the utmost that I then could do would be to give her a most destructive raking fire, and sail away: this my men were ready and eager for; but I overruled the idea:—considering the shocking carnage from our double-loaded guns enfilading a crowded ship, within half-pistol shot; and considering it unmanly, as well as treacherous, to make such wanton havoc while speaking in friendly terms, and proffering assistance. I believed that my country would readily relinquish a trifling degree of benefit to be purchased at the expense of humanity and of national character; and I hope that for these reasons I shall stand justified in not having made use of the accidental advantage in my power for the moment. We parted, after some conversation, with mutual compliments, the French captain telling me his ship's name was Le Caton; and I, in answer to his *quære*, named mine as one of the Norway squadron, which it was not likely he would know by sight. The other ships, seeing that we were spoken by the Caton, discontinued the pursuit, and we passed the rocks unmolested. I am, &c.

W. Sidney Smith.

Captain Sir J. B. Warren.

One of the motives assigned by the French directory for their harshness to Sir Sidney Smith and his secretary, Mr. Wright, was a charge contained in an act of accusation against them, signed Barras, of having made an incendiary attempt on the town and fort of Havre de Grace. On this accusation, Mr. Wright was subjected to a long and severe interrogation by the Juge de Paix de la Place Vendôme. He was asked if their only intention was against the lugger that they attacked? If Sir Sidney never disguised himself? If they did not mean, clandestinely, to burn the arsenal and town? If Sir Sidney did not wish to corrupt a certain Frenchman? If their frigate had not attempted to burn French vessels afloat and building, by means of catamarans? If they had not landed rebels on the coasts of Britanny and Normandy? If they had not landed arms and ammunition? If Sir Sidney wrote his own French letters? Whether he did not know several 'royalist' generals? And many other questions equally irrelevant and impertinent, as being put to a prisoner of war. All these were answered with spirit, judgment, and discrimination.

The incarceration was, as we have before related, very rigorous. The following document from the pen of Sir Sidney Smith, claiming the rights of a prisoner of war, is a fair specimen of his proficiency in the French language.

Le Commodore Anglais Sidney Smith, au Général Pichegru, Président du Conseil des Cinq-Cents.

À la Tour du Temple, le 8 Juin, 1797.

Citoyen Président,—Quand j'apprends, au fond de ma prison, que Pichegru est porté au fauteuil d'un des conseils de la nation, et Barbé-Marbois à celui de l'autre, je respire; parce que cet hommage rendu à la vertu, à la probité et aux talens, offrant la preuve que la majorité de vos collègues vous ressemble, offre en même temps l'espérance que la modération et l'humanité regneront en France, et rétabliront l'harmonie entre nos deux nations, qui sont faites pour s'entre-estimer, et qui ne sont pas plus ennemies au fond pour être rivales.

Je me rappelle que la non-exécution du décret de mort rendu contre les prisonniers de guerre Anglais est due en partie à votre fermeté et à votre humanité: vous avez sauvé votre nation de cette tache de barbarie; il vous reste encore à effacer celle d'un manque de générosité dans un temps où on en fait profession.

Je suis prisonnier de guerre: je n'ai rendu mes armes qu'après une résistance opiniâtre que l'honneur et l'espérance de me tirer d'affaire me commandèrent. On a prétendu me chicaner sur la foiblesse de mon détachement, qui osa mesurer ses forces pendant trois quarts-d'heure contre celles qui nous entouroient. On m'a incarcéré comme un criminel, et j'ai souffert toute la rigueur d'un emprisonnement solitaire depuis treize mois. J'ai réitéré mes réclamations au ministre de la

marine, comme ayant été pris sur mer; mais il n'a pas daigné me répondre. J'ai envoyé un exposé de ma situation au directoire exécutif sans aucun fruit. Après sept mois de détention, le ministre de la justice m'a envoyé un juge de paix, qui m'a interrogé sur une inculpation vague d'avoir fait quelque chose contre le droit des gens. J'aurois pu me dispenser de répondre à des questions sur mon service de deux ans antérieur à ma capture. J'ai cru pourtant devoir détromper le gouvernement, qui paroissoit avoir été induit en erreur sur mon compte. Le juge de paix, évidemment convaincu qu'on avoit été trompé par des rapports exagérés, et frappé lui-même de l'absurdité de poursuivre un officier pour des faits ordinaires de guerre, me promit formellement, sinon ma liberté, au moins un adoucissement à la rigueur de ma détention; mais six mois se sont écoulés depuis, et je n'ai plus entendu parler de lui: j'ai cru devoir attendre que le gouvernement fît d'autres renseignemens, s'il croyoit en avoir besoin; et ce n'est qu'à l'anniversaire de ma captivité que j'ai écrit de nouveau au directoire la réclamation dont une copie est ci-jointe. Je n'ai pas eu de réponse sur le fond de ma réclamation. Je dois pourtant dire que, sur la représentation que je fis de l'inconvenance qu'il y avoit d'assimiler un assassin à un prisonnier de guerre, on a transféré Poule dans une autre prison, vu mon refus d'admettre l'excuse qu'on me fit de son délit de lèse-nation, le double crime ne pouvant que me répugner davantage. Je dois aussi témoigner ma reconnaissance au ministre de la guerre, qui a eu l'humanité de me rendre une visite, et de m'adresser des paroles de consolation en me tranquil-

lisant sur l'idée que je m'étois formée qu'on avoit encore des impressions défavorables à ma réputation.

L'accusation, mise en avant par le juge de paix, fut que j'étois ennemi de la république. Vous savez, général, que le mot d'ennemi a une signification purement technique entre militaires, sans le moindre caractère de haine. Vous admettrez ce principe sans difficulté; et il en résulte que je ne dois pas être persécuté pour le mal que j'ai pu vous avoir fait, étant armé en guerre contre vous.

J'espère que le conseil daignera trouver bon que je ne m'adresse pas à lui avec le ton d'un suppliant. Accoutumé par mon éducation Anglaise à ne respecter le pouvoir que pour le bien qu'il fait, et à ne pas redouter le mal qu'il peut prétendre me faire, je crois devoir me borner à l'instruire de ma position: d'ailleurs, ce seroit faire injure au conseil que de solliciter sa justice et son humanité comme une grace, en paroissant douter de son empressement à les déployer. Non!—malgré tout ce que j'ai souffert, je n'ai nul doute sur la générosité Française; je me plains seulement qu'elle n'ait pas son libre cours. Les portes de ma prison sont formées pour ceux qui, ayant été mes prisonniers en Angleterre, s'empresseroient (je ne doute pas) à m'apporter, aujourd'hui que j'en ai besoin, à mon tour, les mêmes consolations que je leur ai offertes alors. Je crains que cet exemple de rigueur ne passe en usage entre nos deux nations par des représailles; j'ai fait mon possible pour l'empêcher, afin que les petites passions ne viennent pas troubler les passions nobles qui doivent animer les militaires de tous les pays. J'ai le bonheur de savoir que j'ai réussi jusqu'-

ici; mais je crains de ne pas avoir le succès desiré jusqu'à la fin sans votre aide; vous en jugerez par les pièces ci-jointes, que je prends la liberté de déposer sur votre bureau: vous y verrez qu'il y a plus de huit mois que l'échange des prisonniers est arrêté par le refus de me délivrer: ainsi, en vous rappelant mes malheurs, je vous rappelle ceux de dix mille Français. C'est votre influence que je demande plutôt qu'un acte en corps, à moins que vous ne veuillez décider la question de savoir si le ministre de la justice a le droit de mettre un étranger sous des lois qu'il ne connoît pas, et en même temps d'en violer tous les principes en prolongeant la durée du secret qui le prive de tout conseil et de moyens de défense. Au reste, je respecte trop le principe de la démarcation des pouvoirs pour ne pas reconnoître que, comme prisonnier de guerre, je suis entièrement à la disposition du pouvoir exécutif; mais il est sans doute trop occupé de grandes affaires pour penser à un individu.

Je vous prie, citoyen président, d'être persuadé que je suis pénétré de respect pour les autorités, en vous offrant les hommages dus à la place distinguée que vous occupez; je vous prie d'être assuré de ma vénération pour l'auguste fonction de représentant du peuple Français, et d'accepter le témoignage de mon estime pour vous personnellement.

Votre prisonnier,

(Signé) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

ENCLOSURE.

À la Tour du Temple, le 18 *Avril,* 1797.

Citoyens Directeurs,—Aujourd'hui il y a eu un an le sort d'un combat me jeta entre les mains d'un ennemi que je croyois alors aussi généreux qu'il prétendoit l'être. Après les témoignages de considération dont me comblèrent mes vainqueurs, et la promesse qu'ils me firent de me rendre mon epée selon l'usage, je ne m'attendois pas à être traduit de prison en prison comme un criminel, et emprisonné d'une manière plus rigoureuse que les condamnés mêmes: je ne m'attendois pas, sans doute, à être mis dans la même enceinte et sous le même régime du secret que les assassins Migelli et Poule. L'interrogatoire que j'ai subi doit avoir prouvé au directoire que je n'ai fait que ce qu'il ordonne tous le jours, louant ses officiers, comme de raison, pour leurs succès du même genre. D'après cette considération, j'espère que vous jugerez une année de détention être une peine suffisante pour un délit si commun que celui de bien faire son devoir; je vous prie en conséquence, citoyens directeurs, de vouloir bien donner des ordres pour lever le secret rigoureux sous lequel je suis renfermé, afin que, si ma captivité doit être prolongée encore, ma détention n'ait plus le caractère d'une peine afflictive et infamante.

Salut et respect,

(Signé) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

Au moment même que j'écris, mes gardiens m'an-

noncent l'arrivée d'un courrier pour ouvrir les négociations pour la paix; je crois donc devoir me borner à vous soumettre pour ne pas mettre en avant des expressions de l'indignation que ressentoit mon gouvernement lors du mauvais succès de l'application que fit Lord Malmesbury en ma faveur, dans un tems où on se rapproche de nouveau.

Je serois bien coupable si je ne sacrifiois pas toute considération personnelle à l'interêt général de l'humanité, qui va reprendre son empire sur tous les cœurs, au moins il faut l'espérer.

Traduction d'une Lettre du tres-honorable Lord Malmesbury à Sir Sidney Smith.

Paris, 27 Octobre, 1796.

Mon chèr Monsieur,—Vous pouvez être assuré que j'entre bien sensiblement dans votre situation, et que je ne négligerai rien de ce qui pourra dépendre de moi, soit comme homme public ou homme privé, pour vous faire obtenir les adoucissemens toujours accordés aux officiers de votre grade, et auxquels vous avez tant de titres: les lettres ci-jointes vous offriront, j'espère, quelque consolation, et je peux ajouter que votre situation et vos services ne sont pas oubliés en Angleterre.

J'espère bientôt être à même de vous donner de meilleure information; au moins, aucune application envers ce gouvernement ne sera négligée de ma part.

Je suis, mon cher Monsieur, avec grande estime et considération, votre fidèle serviteur,

(Signé) MALMESBURY.

Nota. Cette lettre n'a eu d'autre suite qu'un redoublement de rigueur: la consigne qui m'interdit d'échanger une parole avec qui que ce soit pendant ma triste promenade dans la cour de la prison existe encore aujourd'hui, et est rigidement exécutée. Non seulement Lord Malmesbury n'a pas pu obtenir la permission de me voir, mais le commissaire de S. M. Britannique pour l'échange des prisonniers a été refusé de même, quoiqu'ayant des rapports plus directs avec moi comme prisonnier de guerre.

Salut et respect,

(Signed) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

The publication of these documents produced the following comments in the French public journals of the day.

The "Postillon de Palais" observes—"Commodore Sidney Smith, detained in the Temple, these thirteen months, a most rigorous and solitary prisoner, has just addressed a letter to General Pichegru, which has been published. We shall neither discuss the right of the persons violated, nor the motives of this violation."

"An English personage of distinction," says "Le Grondeur," of the 21st of June, 1797, "detained for these thirteen months in the tower of the Temple, first addressed himself to the directory, and then to the legislative body;

through the intervention of Pichegru, in order to be exchanged.

"It appears that, hitherto, they have paid but little attention to his solicitations. He is reproached, they say, with the obstinate defence that he dared to make against the superior force that surrounded him last year, when he was taken in the very mouth of the Seine, between Havre and Harfleur. In England, he would have been punished for lack of bravery; in France, he is punished for being too brave."

"L'Europe Politique et Littéraire" remarks, that "Some papers have published the following letter from Commodore Smith, an English prisoner, detained under the most rigorous solitary confinement. It is the duty of 'L'Europe Politique' to denounce to the public opinion the crime of the violation of the rights of the people towards a brave officer, against whom, if we may judge by his letter, there can be no other reproach made than that of fighting courageously against enemies who know not how to honour courage.

"Are they the sovereign people, and a sovereign people well instructed in personal rights, whose minister of justice causes a prisoner to be interrogated by a justice of peace; (juge de paix,)

who gravely asks him if 'he be an enemy to the republic?'

"Are they not a careless sovereign people who suffer, without complaint, ten thousand soldiers (sovereigns as well as themselves) to remain in captivity, because the minister of justice keeps in solitary confinement one single enemy who is not even a sovereign?" And much more in the same biting style of reproach.

"The liberty of La Fayette has been demanded of the emperor. A peace is being negociated with England, yet, by one of those contradictions to which our country is too much familiarised, Commodore Smith is still imprisoned in the Temple. All the demands of justice have, hitherto, been in vain. It is a part of the laws of honour to soften the rigours of war. Among belligerent states, a reciprocity of advances ought to distinguish civilised from barbarous nations. Why, then, has the directory no regard for those laws which console humanity in the absence of peace? They talk incessantly of the dangers of reaction, but ought they not also to fear those of reprisals? Commodore Smith is useless to France, and the seamen that can be exchanged for him are very necessary to us. The government ought to think only of increasing the number of its defenders, but it only increases

the number of its victims. Robespierre, in the drunkenness of his tyranny, had put without the pale of the law all English prisoners. Is it wise now to renew the atrocities of Robespierre? I know not if, with such measures, peace is sincerely desired, but I know well that this precious gift of heaven will not be found in the Tub of Regulus." Thus observes the "Quotidienne," alluding to the Carthaginians when they tortured the Roman general.

"L'Invariable," of the 28th of June, remarks, "There have just arrived at Saint Servan, from an English packet-boat, a great quantity of our prisoners, who have informed us that several ships are going to land others in the different French ports. These are happy omens of peace. Why, then, does the government here, under its very eyes, notwithstanding the loud expression of public opinion, still persevere in keeping in the Temple, Englishmen, that it holds not as common prisoners, but as hostages, of whose escape it is afraid?"

All these appeals to the public were useless; peace did not ensue, and the distinguished prisoner was not liberated. But Sir Sidney had his amusements in a correspondence with his friends, among whom is to be distinguished the late eminent physician, Sir Gilbert Blane. The

doctor is eminently philosophical in his correspondence, and recommends his friend to read Sully, Vertot, Marmontel, to take salts, write his own life, and study chemistry—occupations enough to dispel ennui, or to procure it. It is well to have judicious friends.

We transcribe another letter of Sir Sidney's in the French language. It will explain itself.

À la Tour du Temple, 3 *Octobre*, 1797.

Monsieur,—Jusqu'ici j'ai reçu la visite d'un adjutant-général de tems en tems pour recevoir mes réclamations. J'ai été sensible à cette marque d'attention que me prouvoit que je n'étois pas entièrement delaissée par mes confreres les militaires, entre les mains de guichetiers du pouvoir civil, avec lesquels je ne croyois jamais avoir à faire comme prisonnier de guerre. Les visites de cet officier sont discontinuées; et il m'a fait savoir qu'il a cessé ses fonctions. Je prends la liberté, en conséquence, monsieur, de vous prier de nommer un autre officier pour remplacer l'Adjudant-General Hochierot dans ce service auprès de moi. Vous devez sentir, monsieur, qu'il ne peut qu'être une grande satisfaction à un prisonnier, détenu depuis si long-temps dans la plus rigoureuse solitude, de voir entrer chez lui une figure humaine, et surtout un militaire muni d'autorité de recevoir et de faire droit, sur le champ, à ses réclamations. Si cette considération n'est pas de poids auprès de vous, vous admettrez, monsieur, que votre honneur national l'exige; puisque ce fait de l'emprisonnement d'un officier

de grade supérieur, pris par le sort d'un combat, appartient à l'histoire de votre nation soi-disant généreuse, et il vous importe qu'il n'y soit pas mis " plus de rigueur que celle qui seroit necessaire pour s'assurer de la personne d'un prisonnier; ce qui est sévèrement réprimé" par les loix fondamentales de l'état. Le passé vous ne pouvez ni remedier, ni effacer de vos annales, pas plus que la Russie ni l'Autriche ne peuvent déchirer les pages de leur histoire qui regardent Kosciusko et La Fayette: mais l'avenir est entre vos mains, quant au sort de celui qui a l'honneur de se souscrire,

Monsieur,

Avec consideration et respect,

Votre serviteur très humble,

(Signé) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

P. S. Je desire que cette réclamation soit considérée comme ayant rapport à l'autre officier Anglais, M. John Westley Wright, prisonnier de guerre, détenu dans la même tour, mais séparé de moi. Il est également en droit d'attendre les égards d'usage entre nos nations respectives.

It had the effect of his being again considered a prisoner of war. As the probability of his exchange increased, he thus addressed the minister of the marine:—

À la Tour du Temple, 5 Octobre, 1797.

Monsieur,—Je viens de recevoir à l'instant une lettre de Mons. Swinburne, Commissaire de S. M. Britannique pour l'échange des prisonniers de guerre, datée du 6 du mois passé. Comme cette lettre annonce la probabilité de mon prochain échange, je ne vous aurois pas donné la peine de lire mes dernières réclamations, si je l'avois reçue plutôt; et je vous prie de les regarder comme non avenues.

Le préposé à la garde du Temple m'a fait part d'une lettre officielle (qui accompagnoit celle dont il est question ci-dessus) de la part de la commission des échanges, dans laquelle il lui est annoncé que je dépends désormais de votre ministère, ce qui me donne la plus grande satisfaction, et c'est avec confiance que je m'adresse à vous pour obtenir de l'adoucissement à la rigueur de ma détention; me croyant en droit d'attendre de vous, monsieur, les égards d'usage entre nos nations respectives envers les officiers de mon grade prisonniers de guerre, et que je me suis toujours fait un plaisir de témoigner à tous ceux qui ont été entre mes mains.

Je prends la liberté de renouveller ma démande (d'après le changement annoncé) que mon domestique, John Phillips, soit réuni à moi. Il est à Françiade, sous la surveillance du Citoyen Collinet, econome de la maison de santé de cet endroit.

Si vous voulez avoir la bonté, monsieur, de m'envoyer un officier de votre part muni d'autorité de donner des ordres au concierge, il verroit lui-même la justice des

réclamations qui j'ai à faire, et je suis sûr qu'il y feroit droit sur cette evidence.

Je suis, Monsieur,

Avec considération et respect,

Votre très humble serviteur,

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

Prisonnier de Guerre Anglais.

A Mons. le Ministre de la Marine et des Colonies, à Paris.

Sir Sidney next addressed the minister of the interior, remonstrating on the severity of still treating him as a condemned criminal, after having been placed on the cartel of the exchange. The following is his letter.

À la Tour du Temple, Paris, le 9 Octobre, 1797.

Monsieur,—Depuis qu'on m'a annoncé que de dépendois entièrement du ministère de la marine, j'ai concu l'espoir que je ne serois plus détenu avec une rigueur inouïe pour des condampés, bien plus pour un prisonnier de guerre. Ma santé en souffre journellement de plus en plus, et je vous prie instamment de prendre ma position en considération, et de m'accorder des adoucissemens d'usage pour un officier et un homme d'honneur, sous telle surveillance qu'on jugera à-propos en attendant l'échange. —— Je dois aussi vous faire part, monsieur, de la position du seul de mes officiers que n'est pas échangé. Mes capteurs, lors de son trans-

ferrement du Havre à Rouen, eurent la bonté de me permettre de choisir, pour m'accompagner, un officier parmi le brave détachement qui partageoit le sort du combat. Je choisis naturellement celui pour lequel j'avois le plus d'estime, et avec lequel j'étois le plus intimement lié, M. John Westley Wright, midshipman, fesant les fonctions de sécrétaire. Cette distinction lui a valu une détention de dixhuit mois au secret, séparé de moi, excepté un intervalle de deux mois à l'Abbaye qu'on permit notre réunion. Il est difficile de concevoir d'où est parti le trait de malice qui ait pu induire le gouvernement à donner un pareil ordre, et il ne peut y avoir de raison pour que cela subsiste encore dès que nous sommes mis sur le cartel de l'échange.

Agréez l'assurance du respect
Et de la considération avec lesquels je suis,
Monsieur,
Votre très humble serviteur,
W. SIDNEY SMITH.

A Monsieur le Ministre de l'Intérieur, à Paris.

P. S. En attendant votre décision ultérieure sur l'objet de ma démande, je vous prie, monsieur, d'autoriser le préposé à la garde du Temple de me permettre de continuer l'usage des bains, que le ministre de l'intérieur m'avoit accordé.

The only real satisfaction this application pro-

duced was fine words. Thus writes Talleyrand, then minister for foreign affairs :—

I have, sir, forwarded, with all the eagerness that you could wish, the letter that you addressed to me some days ago, the object of which was to have some tidings of your brother. Be assured, sir, that I shall not display less zeal than my predecessor, in endeavouring to alleviate your situation, in procuring you this kind of facility, as well as everything else which may depend on me. The French know how to respect misfortune. The opportunity of relieving it will always be dear to them.

The minister of the interior thus answers his application :—

I find it but just, sir, that you should continue the use of those baths that may be necessary to your health, and I authorise citizen Lèsne to procure for you, as respects this, all that may be needful for you.

As to your other demands, I cannot comply with them, and it will be useless to occupy the executive directory with them, which has done all in its power for you, in granting you the favour of being considered as a prisoner of war, and of being permitted again to see your country, as soon as your government shall have fulfilled the conditions of your exchange.

PLEVILLE LOPELEY.

That there was some interest of immense

power operating against our officer must be apparent, and will be made the more apparent by the following letter addressed to General Smith from Mr. Dundas, and forwarded by the former to Sir Sidney.

Walmer Castle, Tuesday Morning.

Mr. Dundas presents his compliments to General Smith, and returns him the last correspondence from Sir Sidney, which he has perused. Mr. Dundas is sorry to observe that the *arrêté* of the directory there alluded to, by which Sir Sidney is *susceptible of exchange*, stipulates that this exchange shall be granted in return for four thousand French seamen—a condition so evidently inadmissible, that Mr. Dundas cannot entertain an expectation that the prospect of Sir Sidney's return to England is thereby improved."

Was the demand of the French directory a mockery, or was it only considered as a fair equivalent for our officer? If the latter, how could a greater eulogium be invented?

In the course of his captivity, Sir Sidney wrote the following letter to his mother:—

Abbaye Prison, Paris, April 28, 1796.

My dear Mother,—I hope the French gazettes, copied into the English papers, will have announced my captivity to you ere this, and consequently relieved your

mind from the anxiety you must have been under, lest something worse had befallen me. I am well in health, and all the better for having nothing to do or to think of; the only pain I experience is the recollection of what those must suffer who interest themselves in my fate, till they know my safety; and this is now diminished by the indulgence that is granted me of writing this letter. It will be no small consolation to you to know, that humanity is as much the characteristic of the *present* rulers in France, as cruelty was that of those they have supplanted.

Robespierre's system ended with him, and it is no longer a crime to be kind to the unfortunate. Urbanity of manners is by no means extinguished in Paris; this we daily experience, as far as our confined situation allows.

Believe me, my dear mother,

Your affectionate and dutiful son,

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

Mrs. Smith, Catherine Place,
Bath.

P. S. May 6.—A delay in the departure of my letter enables me to add, that I experience some relaxation of the strictness of confinement; wood fires make the air of Paris clear and good: white bread is granted me to-day.

As all Sir Sidney's own correspondence must be highly valuable to the admirers of his charac-

ter, we quote the following letter, for which, and for many others, with numerous facts and anecdotes, we are indebted to the Naval Chronicle.

Our hero thus writes to his brother at Constantinople, dated Tigre, Acré Bay, 29th April, 1799.

Though I don't choose to trust anything of consequence to a chance conveyance, I will not fail to take that chance for meeting your impatience to know our situation, grappled as we are with Buonaparte and his army. The fire never ceases on either side, except when we are both too tired to go on. His whole attention and ammunition are devoted unto the increasing of the breach made in the north-east angle of the town, on which he has thirty pieces of cannon playing, while we take those batteries and his trenches in flank with the ships and gunboats, causing his fire to slacken occasionally by well-placed shots: he sprang the mine (in which Wright was wounded) on the 25th; when instantly ladders were placed, and a party mounted to the assault: they were beaten back; and the occasion calling for me to risk the Tigre in the shoal water to the south of the town, I did not hesitate to do it. Our fire, such as Buonaparte, I am sure, never saw before, cleared his trenches, and reduced all to silence in a very few minutes: but this sort of general discharge cannot be repeated except on such critical occasions, as our ammunition begins to run low. Send us powder and shot by all means, and conveyances, and at any price, or we shall soon be on a par with the enemy in that respect;

at present we are superior to him in everything but numbers. I cannot better describe the position of the enemy for these forty days past, than by telling you we throw stones at each other when flints fail and ammunition runs short. Morris, poor fellow! is killed. Janverin, who has a ball through the muscle under the right arm, is almost well. Wright is better, and in a fair way: he has two balls through the upper part of the right arm. I have sent him in the Alliance to Béruti, where, by-the-bye, the inhabitants receive our people with acclamations, as having saved the country hitherto, bringing water and refreshments miles down to our boats, in troops of hundreds, (nay, I may almost say thousands,) now that they are undeceived as to the French rumour of our being in league with them against Jezzar: no great proof of their own popularity. I have written to the princes of Mount Lebanon: the Porte should mark to them its confidence in our co-operation.

Yours affectionately,

W. S. S.

On this occasion, it is understood, that as Sir Sidney Smith was going over the ship's side to land and hasten to the breach, the first lieutenant and master of the Tigre chose that unseasonable moment to *serve* him with a written protest against "placing his majesty's ship in danger of being lost;" to which the saviour of Turkey calmly replied, "Gentlemen—His majesty's ships are built on purpose to be placed in danger of being lost whenever his majesty's service requires it, and of that the commanding officer is the best judge."

JOHN SPENCER SMYTHE, (OR SMITH,) ESQ.

This gentleman's service in the foreign line commenced as private secretary under Robert Liston, Esq., ambassador to the Othman Porte, in 1793. He succeeded that able and virtuous statesman in 1795, as chargé d'affaires, and was appointed secretary of legation on the 1st of May, 1798, receiving the rank of minister plenipotentiary a few days afterwards, *i. e.* on the 4th. In the December following, Mr. Smythe negociated the first treaty of alliance that ever existed between Great Britain and Turkey; and signed it, conjointly with Sir Sidney Smith, on the 5th of January. He obtained the freedom of the Black Sea for the British flag in October, 1799. On the Earl of Elgin's being nominated ambassador extraordinary to carry out the ratification of the treaty of alliance (just mentioned,) Mr. S. received the further honorary appointment of secretary to the embassy extraordinary. Being eventually superseded by the Earl of Elgin, he returned home from the Levant, on leave of absence, in 1801-2.

The following extract from Tweddell's Remains is not misplaced here

The destruction of Péra by fire, on the 13th of March, 1799.—On arrival of the intelligence of that desolating calamity, which left Mr. Smythe in a state of destitution so entire as even to be without a change of raiment, the Levant Company, with its accustomed

liberality, voted and despatched to him the sum of one thousand pounds on the instant; judging, no doubt, or rather feeling, that, in such a distressing emergency, the maxim, *bis dat qui dat cito*, was recommended by every principle of justice and humanity. It was understood that government, also, after a deliberation of about four years, made some further indemnification for the loss sustained, judging, it is likely, that the royal bounty would be more highly appreciated, from not having been issued with mercantile haste, but after a dignified expenditure of consideration and care. No pecuniary retribution, however, can compensate to a literary man the loss of scientific MSS. and the records of laborious research: these Mr. Smythe, by the advantage of a long residence in the East, and extended travels in European and Asiatic Turkey, had largely accumulated—with the taste of a cultivated mind, and the knowledge of an Oriental scholar; these all perished in the flames of Pera, and society has to lament the irreparable loss of collections particularly valuable in the department of geography.

This letter from Sir Sidney to his brother, written during the height of the siege and defence, will be found most interesting:

Tigre, Acre, May 14, 1799.

My dear Brother,—Events succeed each other so fast here, that it is impossible for those who are employed in creating them to record them. Suffice it therefore to

say, that the enemy has been repulsed in eleven different attempts to assault this place: that this day they are not in possession of Acre, although they have a lodgment in the north-east angle of the north-east tower, one half of which is theirs, and the other ours; while we also have possession of the two new English ravelins that flank the approach to this lodgment, and have raised batteries *within* the breach, which is wide enough for fifty men abreast! the fire from which completely cleared it the last assault, and besides increased the number of the dead in either ditch. Our labour is excessive; many of us (among whom is our anxious and zealous friend Phélypeaux) have died of fatigue. I am but half dead; but Buonaparte brings fresh troops to the assault two or three times in the night, and we are thus obliged to be always under arms. He has lost the flower of his army in these desperate attempts to storm, (as appears by the certificates of former services which we find in their pockets,) and eight generals.

A report is brought us by an Arab, that Buonaparte is wounded in the thigh, but I know not if it is true. Scarce a day but I lose somebody: how I have escaped hitherto, I know not, fired at and marked as I am from *within*, as well as from *without*. Still, however, we keep the bull pinned, and compare our breach to a mousetrap, in which any mouse, or number of mice, that come, are sure to be caught. We have now been near two months constantly under fire, and firing; our ammunition is consequently nearly expended, and, unfortunately, as we cannot be in two places at once, and Jezzar t[illegible]me, if I go, the place is gone, we cannot take

care of the coast lower down than Mount Carmel, so that the French not only receive supplies from Alexandria, by way of Jaffa, but they have taken Abdulha Aga, and the bombardiers from Constantinople, and are actually throwing those Turkish shells at us. I sent the Theseus after three French frigates yesterday, off Cæsarea, being just able to spare her for an interval; she got sight of them, and chased them, but her disablement from a sad accident obliged her to haul off: sixty odd shells blew up at three explosions, under the fore part of the poop, killed and wounded thirty-two men, including those who jumped overboard and were drowned; and, alas! amongst the former, we have to lament Captain Miller, my zealous and indefatigable supporter to the north, a station I have been obliged to take during his absence; and I now cannot chase these frigates without leaving the town to its fate. *Why have I not some efficient frigates?* Hassan Bey's two frigates are not effective; or, if effective as to crews, have been obliged to disembark their men to defend the breach in their turn. The Chiftlik men, who were unsteady the first day (and it must be owned they joined me at a time that we were under a fire that was enough to astonish young soldiers) have now recovered their credit. You must see, by my writing, that I am almost blind; what with the dust from the shells, hot sun, and much writing to keep things square here. I have two emissaries from the Druses and Christians of Mount Lebanon, who are come in consequence of my message to them to that effect; and they promise me, that all I required of them should be done against the enemy, now they see how

powerful we are to protect them. Wright is at Bairuti, better.

I really have not time to write to my uncle; and I therefore mean to send him my journal materials open through your channel.—Adieu!

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

The following translation of the proclamation issued by Buonaparte, in the Arabic language, on his landing in Egypt, will prove that he stopped at no lengths to gain his purpose:—

Alexandria, Messidor 13, *Year VIth of the Republic, One and Indivisible, the —— of the Month of Muharrem, the Year of the Hegira,* 1213.

BUONAPARTE, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

In the name of God, gracious and merciful. There is no God but God; he has no Son or associate in his kingdom.

The present moment, which is destined for the punishment of the Beys, has been long anxiously expected. The Beys, coming from the mountains of Georgia and Caucasus, have desolated this beautiful country, long insulted and treated with contempt the French nation, and oppressed her merchants in various ways. Buonaparte, the general of the French Republic, according to the principles of liberty, is now arrived;

and the Almighty, the Lord of both worlds, has sealed the destruction of the Beys.

Inhabitants of Egypt! When the Beys tell you the French are come to destroy your religion, believe them not; it is an absolute falsehood. Answer those deceivers, that they are only come to rescue the rights of the poor from the hands of their tyrants; and that the French adore the Supreme Being, and honour the Prophet and his holy Koran.

All men are equal in the eyes of God; understanding, ingenuity, and science, alone make a difference between them: as the Beys, therefore, do not possess any of these qualities, they cannot be worthy to govern the country.

Yet are they the only possessors of extensive tracts of land, beautiful female slaves, excellent horses, magnificent palaces? Have they then received an exclusive privilege from the Almighty? If so, let them produce it. But the Supreme Being, who is just and merciful towards all mankind, wills that, in future, none of the inhabitants of Egypt shall be prevented from attaining to the first employments and the highest honours. The administration, which shall be conducted by persons of intelligence, talent, and foresight, will be productive of happiness and security. The tyranny and avarice of the Beys have laid waste Egypt, which was formerly so populous and well cultivated.

The French are true Mussulmans. Not long since they marched to Rome, and overthrew the Pope, who excited the Christians against the professors of the Mohammedan religion. Afterwards they directed their

course to Malta, and drove out the unbelievers, who imagined they were appointed by God to make war on the Mussulmans. The French have, at all times, been the true and sincere friends of the Ottoman emperors, and the enemies of their enemies. May the empire of the Sultan therefore be eternal; but may the Beys of Egypt, our opposers, whose insatiable avarice has continually excited disobedience and insubordination, be trodden in the dust, and annihilated.

Our friendship shall be extended to those of the inhabitants of Egypt who shall join us, as also to those who shall remain in their dwellings, and observe a strict neutrality; and when they have seen our conduct with their own eyes, hasten to submit to us; but the dreadful punishment of death awaits those who shall take up arms for the Beys, and against us. For them there shall be no deliverance, nor shall any trace of them remain.

Art. 1. All places which shall be three leagues distant from the route of the French army, shall send one of their principal inhabitants to the French general, to declare that they submit, and will hoist the French flag which is blue, white, and red.

Art. 2. Every village which shall oppose the French army shall be burned to the ground.

Art. 3. Every village which shall submit to the French shall hoist the French flag, and that of the Sublime Porte, their ally, whose duration be eternal.

Art. 4. The chiefs and principal persons of each town and village shall seal up the houses and effects of the

Beys, and take care that not the smallest article shall be lost.

Art. 5. The Shekhs, Cadis, and Imams shall continue to exercise their respective functions, and put up their prayers and perform the exercise of religious worship in the mosques and houses of prayer. All the inhabitants of Egypt shall offer up thanks to the Supreme Being, and put up public prayers for the destruction of the Beys.

May the Supreme God make the glory of the Sultan of the Ottomans eternal, pour forth his wrath on the Mamelouks, and render glorious the destiny of the Egyptian nation.

GENERAL BUONAPARTE TO THE INHABITANTS OF CAIRO, FEB. 20.

Wicked men have succeeded in leading part of you astray; and they have perished. God has directed me to be merciful to the people; I have been irritated against you on account of your insurrection. I have deprived you for two months of your divan; but I restore it to you this day. Your good conduct has effaced the stain of your rebellion. Scheriffs, Ulemas, preachers at the mosques, make it known to the people, that those who may declare themselves my enemies, shall have no refuge either in this world or in the next! Can there exist any man so blind as not to see that destiny directs all my operations? Can any one be so incredulous as to make it a question of doubt, that everything in this vast universe is submissive to the empire of Fate?

Inform the people, that since the creation of the world it has been written, that after having destroyed the enemies of Islamism, and laid their crosses prostrate, I should come from the extremity of the West to fulfil the task which has been imposed upon me. Show to the people's conviction, that in the holy book of the Koran, and in more than twenty passages of it, what happens has been foreseen, and what will happen has been equally unfolded. Let those, then, who are prevented only by the fear of our arms from cursing us, change their sentiments; for, in addressing prayers to Heaven against us, they solicit their own condemnation. Let the true believers pray for the success of our arms. I might demand of each of you the causes of the secret sentiments of your hearts; for I know all, even what you have not revealed to any one. But the day will come, in which all the world shall clearly see that I am conducted by a being of superior order, and that every human effort cannot prevail against me. Happy those who shall sincerely be the first to range themselves on my side!

BUONAPARTE.

The following is the document alluded to in the former part of our narrative, by which Buonaparte officially made Sir Sidney Smith mad

ORIENTAL ARMY.

Camp before Acre, 28 Germinal: Year VII. of the Republic.

The Adjutant-General Boyer, (representing the General-in-Chief of the Staff of the Army,) to the Squadron-Chief, Lambert, Commandant at Khaiffa.

Citizen Commandant,—Annexed I remit unto you an order of the general-in-chief, which you will please to cause to be executed punctually, viz. "The commandant of the English squadron cruising before Acre, having had the barbarity to cause to be embarked on board a ship or vessel at Constantinople, French prisoners, under the pretext of sending them back to Toulon, but solely to get rid of them by the way. Besides, this man being a sort of madman, you will make known to our commandant of the coast, that my intention is, that no communication be holden with the same. In consequence, flags of truce shall be sent back before they arrive within musket-shot of the shore. I order equally, that conformably to the present dispositions of the above order, (*arrêté*,) in case an English flag should present itself, there be delivered thereunto a copy of the order, which is not to be acted upon, except relatively to the *present* commander on the station.

"BUONAPARTE."

A copy in conformity,

BOYER,

Adjutant-General.

Certified true and conformable to the original,

F. LAMBERT.

Sir Sidney Smith's right to be a party to the treaty of El Arisch has been often questioned, not only in parliament, but elsewhere. The subjoined credential places the question of his right at rest for ever.

GEORGIUS R.

Georgius Tertius Dei gratia Magnæ Britanniæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, fidei defensor, Dux Brunsvicensis et Luneburgensis, Sacri Romani Imperii Archi-Thesaurarius et princeps elector, &c. Omnibus et singulis ad quos præsentes hæ literæ pervenerint, Salutem. Cum in præsenti rerum publicarum statû tam nobis quam augustissimo et invictissimo principi Sultano Selim, Turcici regni dominatori potentissimo imperii Orientis monarcho, e re communi visum sit, tractatum inire quo amicitia inter nos firmetur et augeatur, atque mutuæ securitati melius consulatur et provideatur; cumque ad hoc opus peragendum et ad exoptatum exitum perducendum opera uti duxerimus per quam fidelium et delectorum nobis Gulielmi Sidney Smith, regii militaris ordinis de ense equitis, et in exercitû regio nostro navali præfecti, ac etiam Johannis Spencer Smith armigeri, Ministri Plenipotentiarii nostri, partes hoc tempore apud aulam supradicti augustissimi et invictissimi principis Sultani Selim, sustinentis virorum probatæ nobis fidei ac in rebus gerendis industriæ solertiæ et prudentiæ. Sciatis igitur quod nos eosdem vel eorum quemvis quem ad aulam supradicti invictissimi principis adesse contigerit constituimus fecimus et ordinavimus, ac per præsentes constituimus facimus et ordinamus nostros

veros certos et indubitatos commissarios procuratores et plenipotentiarios, vel commissarium procuratorem et plenipotentiarium. Dantes et concedentes iisdem conjunctim vel eorum cuivis separatim quem scilicet ad aulam supradicti invictissimi principis adesse contigerit, omnem et omnimodam facultatem potestatem et auctoritatem pro nobis et nostro nomine cum ministro ministrisve ex parte supradicti augustissimi et invictissimi Sultani Selim plena itidem potestate munito vel munitis congrediendi et colloquendi ac de prædicti tractatûs conditionibus tractandi et conveniendi eaque omniaque ita conventa et conclusa fuerint pro nobis et nostro nomine signandi, ac eadem mutuo extrahendi recipiendique reliquaque omnia ad opus supradictum debitè exequendum factu necessaria præstandi perficiendique tam amplis modo et forma ac nosmet ipsi si interessemus facere et præstare possemus spondentes et in verbo regio nostro promittentes nos, quæcunqua vi præsentium concludi et signari contigerint, rata grata et accepta omni meliori modo habituros; neque passuros unquam ut in toto vel in parte à quopiam violentur, aut ut illis in contrarium eatur. In quorum omnium majorem fidem ac robur præsentibus manû nostrâ regiâ signatis, magnum nostrum Magnæ Britanniæ sigillum apponi fecimus. Dabantur in palatio nostro divi Jacobi tricesimo die mensis Septembris Anno Domini 1798, regnique nostri tricesimo octavo.

L. S. Pendentis.

THE END.

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NEW

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I.

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